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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Cited on 'Bestial' Lebanon Raids *[Algiers VOP]* 2
'Arafat Meets With Iraqi Information Minister *[Baghdad Radio]* 2
'Arafat Interviewed on Mideast Peace Process *[Paris LE FIGARO 23-24 May]* 2
'Arafat, Major al-Humaydi Discuss Developments *[Sanaa VOP]* 3

OPEC Affairs

Reportage on Vienna OPEC Meeting Agreements 3
Tehran on Iraqi Rejection of Decision *[IRNA]* 3
Algerian Minister 'Satisfied' With Outcome *[APS]* 4
Kuwaiti Oil Production Plans Explained *[Vienna OPECNA]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Cairo Trying To Halt Israeli Raids in Lebanon *[MENA]* 6
Release of Israelis Suspected of Spying Detailed *[AL-MUSAWWAR 22 May]* 6
Musa Attends Foreign Ministers Meeting in Lisbon 6
Meets Russian, Portuguese Counterparts *[MENA]* 6
Meets German, Other Counterparts *[MENA]* 7
Meets Envoy in Paris *[MENA]* 7
Returns; Views Israeli Measures, Libya *[MENA]* 7
Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed With Germany *[MENA]* 8
Debts With Former Soviet Union Settled *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 19 May]* 8
Russian Delegation Discusses Ties With Officials *[Editorial Report]* 8
Meets With Al-Baz *[MENA]* 9
Meets With Arab League Head *[MENA]* 9
Departs 24 May *[MENA]* 9
Hungarian Trade Deputy Holds Talks 23 May *[MENA]* 9
Surur Meets With Economic Unity Council Leader *[MENA]* 9
Commentary Cites 'Peaceful Means' to Libyan Issue *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Interior Minister Musa on Security Situation *[AL-MUSAWWAR 22 May]* 10

Libya

Military Spokesman Cited on Aborted Coup *[Kuwait Radio]* 11
Vocational Training Discussed With Iran *[JANA]* 11
Minutes on Cooperation Signed *[Tripoli Radio]* 11
Military Intelligence Director Receives Moroccans *[JANA]* 11

Morocco

King Hassan Interviewed on Regional Issues *[London MBC TV]* 12

Sudan

Al-Turabi Interviewed on Regional Relations *[AL-SAFIR 18 May]* 14
Members of Delegation to Abuja Talks Named *[SUNA]* 16
Lam Akol on Internal Split, Military Situation *[London AL-HAYAH 19 May]* 17
Akol Interviewed on Peace Talks *[Nairobi TV]* 18
SPLA Official Comments on Peace Talks *[London International]* 18
Peace Conference Opens in Nigeria *[cross-reference]* 18

ARAB PENINSULA

Kuwait

2 Sentenced To Death for Collaborating With Iraq *[KUNA]* 19

Yemen

Salih Gives Press Conference on Unity, Borders *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Jews Can Go Anywhere 'Except Israel' *[MENA]* 21
Complaint Lodged With Saudis on Disputed Territory *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 21
Sanaa Protest Over Border Oil Areas *[AFP]* 22
Minister Praises Saudi Relations on National Day *[Sanaa Radio]* 22

IRAQ

Kurds To Cooperate Despite 'Rigged' Elections *[Voice of Unification]* 23
Turkish Air Attack Kills 5 Iraqi Kurds, Wounds 4 *[AFP]* 23
Over 100 Kurds Killed in Turkish Raid *[AFP]* 23
'Aziz Presents Paper on Changing World Order *[AL-THAWRAH 21 May]* 23
Saudis Blamed for 'Failure' of OPEC Meetings *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
3 Out Of 4 Mina' al-Bakr Platforms Repaired *[INA]* 32
Regime Sends 'Hired Saboteurs' to Gulf Nations *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 32

ISRAEL

Rioting Reaches 'Unprecedented' Level of Violence 33
110 Demonstrators Arrested *[Jerusalem International]* 33
Justice Minister Urges Restraint *[Jerusalem TV]* 33
2 Gaza Homes Sealed; Nazareth Man Beaten *[Jerusalem International]* 33
Attacks on Innocent Arabs Condemned *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Palestinian Negotiator Condemns Incident *[Jerusalem International]* 34
Settler Murdered in Gaza; Assailant Captured 34
Gaza Remains Sealed Off *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Gaza Strip Blockade Extended *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Settlers on 'Rampage' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
IDF To Develop New Methods Against Intifadah *[HA'ARETZ 24 May]* 34
Likud Calls For Halt to Mudslinging on Rabin *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Rabin on Likud Mudslinging *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Rabin Challenges Shamir to Public Debates *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Rabin Links Economy With Peace, Security *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Israel: Rabin Justifies IDF Operations in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Poll Shows Drop in Support for Religious Parties *[HA'ARETZ 25 May]* 36
Faysal al-Husayni Urges Arabs To Vote *[HADASHOT 25 May]* 37
New Budget, Loan Guarantees for Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Water Quality, Sewage Israel's 'Biggest Problem' *[Jerusalem International]* 37
Hoof-and-Mouth Disease Plagues Cattle in North *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Palestinians Leave for Lisbon Multilaterals *[HA'ARETZ 26 May]* 38
Local Muslims Leave for Mecca Pilgrimage *[Jerusalem International]* 38
SLA Soldiers 'Cooperated' With Hizballah *[HA'ARETZ 22 May]* 38
Arens Denies Reinforcing Troops in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Arens—'No Fear of War' With Syria in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39

IDF Denies Syrian-Lebanese Antiaircraft Fire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
IDF Denies Shelling North of 'Security Zone' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Foreign Minister Says Syria 'Playing With Fire' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Reportage of Visit of Byelarus Prime Minister 39
Accompanied by Foreign Minister *[Jerusalem International]* 39
Byelarus' Kebich Interviewed *[HA'ARETZ 26 May]* 40
Shamir, Kebich Hold Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Full Diplomatic Ties Established *[Jerusalem International]* 41
Agreement on Flights to Tbilisi Signed *[HATZOFE 22 May]* 41
Gorbachev To Arrive on Visit on 14 Jun *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Diplomatic Relations Resumed With Sierra Leone *[Jerusalem International]* 42

JORDAN

Delegation Departs for Lisbon Negotiations *[Amman TV]* 43
UAE National Carrier Resumes Amman Flights *[Amman Radio]* 43
Debt Rescheduled With Four Paris Club Members *[JORDAN TIMES 24 May]* 43
Transport Minister Receives Yemeni Counterpart *[Amman Radio]* 43
King Returns From Europe, Says Talks 'Positive' *[Amman TV]* 44
Trade Talks Begin With Bulgarian Delegation *[JORDAN TIMES 25 May]* 44
Jerusalem Holy Sites Discussed With UNESCO *[Amman Radio]* 44
Sharp Decline in Trade With Saudi Arabia, Kuwait *[JORDAN TIMES 27 May]* 45
Changes in Iraq Required To Revive ACC *[JORDAN TIMES 25 May]* 46

LEBANON

Dallul Denies German Hostages Discussed in Tehran *[Beirut Radio]* 48
Additional Reportage on Reactions to Israeli Acts 48
Israeli Withdrawal Demanded *[WAKH]* 48
Iran's Khamene'i on 'Barbaric Attacks' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 48
Nasrallah Views 'Zionist Aggression' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 48
Israeli 'Agents' Cited in Bombings *[Voice of the South]* 50
Al-Sulh Inspects South *[VOL]* 50
Defense Ministry Denies Helping Habash *[VOL]* 51
Further Reportage on Israeli Offensive in South 51
Israelis Fire on Ba'labakk *[AFP]* 51
Israeli Helicopters Drop Bombs *[VOM]* 52
Israeli F-16s Conduct Raids *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 52
U.S. Envoy Cited on Possible Attacks *[Voice of the Mountain]* 52
Israel 'Raking' Border Areas With Guns *[VOL]* 52
Army Takes Precautionary Measures *[Beirut Radio]* 52
Resistance Group Retaliates *[Beirut Radio]* 53

SYRIA

Damascus Radio Reports on Israeli Raids in Lebanon 54
Lebanese Fire on Israeli Fighters *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Daily Criticizes 'Zionist Aggression' *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Commentary Views Shamir 'Power Game' *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Column Views Delay in State Budget Passage *[AL-BA'TH 11 May]* 54

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Uzbek Fighters Said Suspicious of Accord *[AFP]* 56
Iran Sends Unsolicited Aid to Herat *[AFP]* 57
Mojaddedi Meets Pakistani Labor Minister *[Kabul Radio]* 57
Rabbani Visits Baghlan, Praises Victory *[Kabul Radio]* 57

Bangladesh

Minister on Zia India Visit, Rohingya Refugees *[Dhaka Radio]* 57
Burma, Refugees Said Holding Key to Repatriation *[AFP]* 58
Heavy Rain, Wind Add to Suffering of Rohingyas *[Dhaka Radio]* 58

India

Further Reportage Following Abduction of Diplomat 59
Talks With Pakistan 'Called Off' *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Spokesman on 'Postponement' of Talks *[ISI]* 59
Pakistan Turns Down Request *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Spokesman on U.S. Congressman's Legislation *[ISI]* 60
Russian Rocket Engine Supply 'Assured' *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Bangladesh Premier Arrives in New Delhi 26 May *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Refugees, Water Sharing Discussed *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Rao, Zia Banquet Speeches Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Governor on 'Significant Improvement' in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 61

Iran

Tehran Reports Iraqi Attack on Marshlands *[Tehran TV]* 61
Source: U.S. Supported Attack in Iraq *[IRNA]* 61
Foreign Ministry Reacts to Sarhadi Extradition 61
Swiss, French Envoys Summoned *[IRNA]* 61
Daily: Ties Could Deteriorate *[AFP]* 62
Joint Projects With FAO Said Underway *[IRNA]* 62
Editorial Views Relations With Pakistan, Turkey *[TEHRAN TIMES 11 May]* 62
Editorial Comments on Events in Tajikistan *[TEHRAN TIMES 17 May]* 63
Khomeyni Cited on 'Zionist' Attacks in Lebanon *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Editorial Views Steps for Security, Stability *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 11 May]* 64
Kordestan Party Plenum Issues Statement *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 64
Editorial Views Objectives of Kurdistan Elections *[TEHRAN TIMES 18 May]* 65
War Games Commemorating Khorramshahr Begin *[IRNA]* 66

Nepal

Activists Arrested for Defying Rally Ban Order *[AFP]* 66
Sandhikharka Placed Under Curfew *[AFP]* 66
Prime Minister Predicts Victory, Little Violence *[AFP]* 67
Opposition Urges Ruling Party Defeat in Elections *[AFP]* 67

Pakistan

'Surprise' at Indian Cancellation of Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Indians Living in Pakistan Concerned for Safety *[Delhi Radio]* 68
National Assembly Briefed on Operations in Sindh *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Action Plan Detailed *[Pakistan TV]* 69
Afghanistan's Mojaddedi Begins 2-Day State Visit *[Pakistan TV]* 69
Speaks at Banquet *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Kanjoo Regrets Differences Among Afghan Leaders *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Sharif's Emissary Returns From Afghanistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 70

Sri Lanka

Tigers Say India Trying To Oust Premadasa *[AFP]* 70
Policy of Dialogue With LTTE To Continue *[Colombo International]* 71
Troops Battle LTTE at Elephant Pass *[Colombo International]* 71

Kuwait

The State Security Court sentenced to death two persons convicted of collaborating with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait, KUNA reported.

Yemen

Yemen is "ready to discuss border issues with its neighbors" in order to "safeguard the legal and historical rights of all parties," according to President Salih, who spoke at a press conference, Sanaa radio reported. The president said border talks with Oman have made progress, adding that his government is rady to discuss the border issue with Saudi Arabia "any time they want," the radio added.

Israel

Rioting reached "unprecedented" levels of violence as "thousands" of Jews went on a rampage in Bat Yam, chanting "Death to the Arabs" and throwing stones, Jerusalem International reported. Activists from the extremist KAKH group were seen circulating among the rioters, according to a policeman cited by HA'ARETZ. The incidents were prompted by the 24 May killing of an Israeli woman by an Arab. In related violence, a Nazareth man was critically wounded after being clubbed by 10 Israelis, Jerusalem International reported. Deputy Minister Netanyahu condemned attacks against innocent Arabs, stating that such acts "only play into the hands of terrorists." In a separate development, Jewish settlers from Kfar Darom and Gush Qatif went on a "rampage" in the wake of the fatal stabbing of a settler, Jerusalem radio noted. The IDF prevented angry settlers from reaching an Arab elementary school and evacuated the students, the radio reported. Meanwhile, authorities sealed off the Gaza Strip for another three days, the radio added.

India

Citing the "unreasonable attitude" of the Pakistani Government, a spokesman announced the suspension of bilateral talks that were to convene on 1-3 June, ISI reported. Pakistan shows "no sense of regret" for the "brutal treatment" accorded a member of its High Commission in Islamabad, the spokesman added.

Libya

Authorities arrested four Air Force officers after they attempted to stage a coup, according to a military spokesman cited by Kuwait radio.

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Cited on 'Bestial' Lebanon Raids

LD2605183792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] A Palestinian spokesman stated the following: The Palestinian leadership is following with great interest the series of bestial aggressions carried out by the Israeli forces against the Lebanese villages and the Palestinian concentration points that inflicted heavy human and material losses and led to the forcible displacement of thousands from their homes. [words indistinct]

The continuation of these bestial aggressions coupled by increasing military build up in the area of the security zone and the area of (?Kfar Falous) bordering our camps in Sidon constitute a grave escalation premeditated by the Israeli leadership with the aim of shedding more blood and more violence in the region which fundamentally threaten (?the efforts of the entire world) to provide a peaceful atmosphere in the Middle East to lead to accomplishing a just and durable peace in the region based on international legitimacy.

The Palestinian people—who have every love and appreciation toward Lebanon—government, and national resistance stand side by side with this fraternal country and its struggling people in their valiant resistance of these unjust aggressions which cannot be seperated from the enemy's ambitions in Lebanon, Palestine, and our land and sanctities. What the Israeli Army is doing exposes the ugly face of this criminal aggression on Lebanon and the Arab nation at this very time of the process of the peaceful settlement. The United States' responsibility is to act to bear its responsibility vis-a-vis Shamir's government and its criminal aggressions.

'Arafat Meets With Iraqi Information Minister

JN2605184992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, received in Tunis today Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, [Iraqi] minister of culture and information, on the occasion of the minister's visit to Tunis. During the meeting, the two officials reviewed the latest developments of the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied Arab territories, as well as Arab and regional issues.

The meeting was attended by the Iraqi and Palestinian ambassadors to Tunisia, and a number of PLO Executive Committee members.

'Arafat Interviewed on Mideast Peace Process

PM2605141492 Paris LE FIGARO in French 23-24 May 92 p 3

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Florence Kammermann; place and date not given]

[Text] [Kammermann] After six meetings between Arabs and Israelis, the peace process in the Near East seems to be in deadlock. Do you think that it is still possible to break the deadlock?

['Arafat] I am not optimistic. The Israeli Government is still stupidly swimming against the tide of History. There is international law based on the numerous resolutions which the United Nations has devoted to the Near East conflict. And yet, the Israelis persist in ignoring international law and in continuing to build houses for new immigrants in the occupied territories. They still occupy the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. At the same time, the U.S. leaders are persisting in turning a blind eye to the Israelis' crimes by supplying them with unlimited aid.

[Kammermann] The United States nonetheless reaffirmed last week its support for Resolution 194 which recognizes the Palestinians' right to return.

['Arafat] That resolution is the U.S. Administration's work. It has been reaffirmed each year. The fact that Washington supports that text is therefore nothing new. But we have the right to ask the United States to ensure respect for all UN resolutions instead of merely showing an interest in the resolutions which correspond to Washington's political objectives. At the time of the Gulf war, the Americans demanded the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations on Iraq. They are behaving in an entirely different way when it comes to resolutions dealing with Palestine. We have the right to ask the Americans whether they have double standards. The shortsighted Israeli militarists must realize that the world is changing. What is now left of the world power which was the USSR? The Berlin Wall has come down. In South Africa, apartheid has disappeared: Over there even the Whites voted in favor of the Blacks. I regret to note that the Israelis still want to achieve their old dream of a Greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. The Israelis do not accept the lessons of History....

[Kammermann] Do you not think that some sacrifices made by the PLO could bring about progress in the peace negotiations?

['Arafat] We must wait. The Americans have not yet intervened in the negotiations. And I am sorry to say that they have not kept the promises they made to us before starting the peace process. Nor have they honored the agreement which I concluded in 1988 with George Schultz, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state, and which made provision for establishing an American-Palestinian dialogue. Washington does not have an impartial attitude.

[Kammermann] What gesture from Israel do you think could help break the deadlock in the process?

['Arafat] The Israelis must accept the principle of an exchange of "territories for peace" and not that of "peace for peace," as Shamir stupidly persists in saying. Israel must implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338 which make provision for withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. We are not asking for the moon....

[Kammermann] Israel has decided to boycott the multilateral negotiations which are currently being held. The Palestinians want to take advantage of this session to discuss the status of Jerusalem. How is it possible to discuss such an important subject in the absence of the Israelis?

['Arafat] The Iraqis were also absent when the United States and their allies decided to use force to implement the UN resolutions adopted during the Gulf crisis. This means that there are double standards.

[Kammermann] But why raise the Jerusalem question already when no progress has been made?

['Arafat] Do you think that there is a Palestinian, an Arab, a Muslim, or even a Christian who could betray Jerusalem? So why are you asking me that question...?

[Kammermann] Parliamentary elections are due to be held in Israel in June. If Shamir's Likud gives way to Rabin's Labor Party, do you think the negotiations will have more chance of succeeding?

['Arafat] I cannot answer that before the elections. We do not want to interfere in the Israelis' choice. On the other hand, we have the right to ask Israeli public opinion to vote for peace and not for old dreams which can only lead to new wars, which can only encourage the official terrorism which the Israeli Army is using, especially in southern Lebanon.

[Kammermann] On the basis of the letter which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker sent to the Palestinian delegation before the start of the Madrid conference last October, you expressed the hope that elections to appoint an autonomous executive authority would be held in the occupied territories this fall. Hence a year after the start of the negotiations. Is this prospect realistic?

['Arafat] These elections must be held at least a month before the end of the limited period which is mentioned in the U.S. letter of guarantee. A Palestinian authority would have to be established before 31 October. But that authority cannot be installed without first holding free elections with freely chosen candidates—elections which will have to be held under UN auspices. Hence outside Israeli control.

[Kammermann] Do you really believe that this election could take place?

['Arafat] That is a question which you must put to those who want to create a new world order. This timetable is very important. Not only for we as Arabs or Palestinians but because the credibility of the U.S., now the one remaining superpower, depends on it too.

[Kammermann] What impact did the Habash affair have on relations between France and the PLO?

['Arafat] There is no doubt that the attempts to destroy our very good relations with the French Government came from several sources. Those attempts failed. We are proud to see our bilateral relations growing stronger each day. We work in cooperation with French officials at all levels—from the president to the French ambassador in Tunis.

[Kammermann] Who tried to destroy those relations?

['Arafat] Everybody knows who it was.

'Arafat, Major al-Humaydi Discuss Developments

JN2605172992 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received at his place of residence in Tripoli yesterday Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council of the great 1 September revolution. They exchanged views on current political developments and on the possibility of resolving the Western-Libyan crisis, which the United States is trying to impose on the Jamahiriyah, and finding an honorable solution to it.

OPEC Affairs

Reportage on Vienna OPEC Meeting Agreements

Tehran on Iraqi Rejection of Decision

LD2305075192 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Vienna, May 23, IRNA—Oil ministers of the 13-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) here Friday decided to retain the production ceiling of 22.982 mb/d, [million barrels per day] which was agreed to in Geneva in February.

The ministers, with the exception of the Iraqi minister, agreed to roll over into the third quarter of this year the February accord, inclusive of the reservations of both Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh told IRNA Friday night that he was satisfied with the conference decision not to change the output ceiling.

He said that he failed to understand the Iraqi rejection of the OPEC resolution, since provision for its position had already been made in the earlier agreement.

At a press briefing following the conference, OPEC Secretary General Subroto said that while twelve member countries agreed to the decision Iraq rejected it, adding that the Iraqi minister did not accept "the language of the resolution."

Clarifying the objection, Subroto said that "Iraq insisted on mentioning the sentence that when Iraq re-enters the market then the president of the conference will call a meeting."

Subroto said the argument against this position is that the February 1992 agreement already contains such a provision.

The conference also decided to allow for any additional production by Kuwait whose output in April was 905,000 b/d and which was expected to rise to 955,000 b/d in may and to 1.1 million b/d in June.

According to the Kuwaiti minister his country's production in the third quarter is projected to increase between 1.2 million b/d and 1.5 million b/d.

Subroto said the ministers decided that the OPEC conference president may call a ministerial monitoring committee meeting if market developments warranted it.

The OPEC secretary general said that although Iran had again expressed reservations to the agreement it was adhering consistently to its quota of 3.18 million b/d. Saudi Arabia which also had reservations was consistently producing around eight million b/d, he said. In April the Kingdom's output was 8.06 million b/d, he added.

The OPEC basket of seven crudes on Thursday was dlrs 18.58 a barrel. "We expect this to firm up." The organization would be producing well below the 24 million b/d, he said.

Asked about the control mechanism on the oil production of member states, Subroto said that monitoring would be carried out by the organization's marketing experts in coordination with the OPEC secretariat. No external auditor would be hired, he said.

The organization's ministerial monitoring committee will meet in Geneva on 16 September 1992 to decide on production levels for the fourth quarter.

The next ordinary meeting of the OPEC conference will be held here on 25 November.

Algerian Minister 'Satisfied' With Outcome

LD2405200592 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Vienna, May 24/05/92 (APS)—The Minister of Energy Nordine Ait Laoussine granted Saturday in Vienna a press conference to journalists present at the OPEC meeting. It is worth recalling this meeting ended after several sessions of consultation between the OPEC ministers. They decided to renew the February agreement in its integrality. This agreement, the minister noted centred on the production ceiling. However, there has been, some reserves on the part of Saudi Arabia on its quota and Iran on this production ceiling.

Moreover, this agreement also scheduled the possibility for Kuwait to produce at full capacity estimated at 1.2 mb/d [million barrels per day]. Nevertheless Iraq refused to adhere to this accord because it did not contain its proposal regarding the convening of an extraordinary meeting as soon as the embargo on its exportations is lifted.

Regarding the results of this meeting, Ait Laossine declared himself "satisfied" for "it is the first time the third time production will be slightly less than the demand and will not create a surplus of stocks noting this situation will enable to avoid the euphoria the 91 fourth term followed by a sudden crash of oil price." [sentence as received]

Furthermore, Ait Laoussine insisted on lifting any confusion due to the speculations on the OPEC meeting, asserting the atmosphere in which the works occurred was eased, in the sense that OPEC countries reasserted their attachment to the 21 dollar price during these consultations.

Regarding the impact of this agreement on the Algerian economy and on the implementation of the government's programme, the minister recalled this programme was elaborated on the basis of a 19 dollar Saharan-blend oil price in last April. If oil prices continue to increase, it is now at 19.75 dollars, he said, we will achieve substantial incomes. Eventually, it is worth recalling following the OPEC conference, the New York market closed at 19.70 dollars per barrel.

Kuwaiti Oil Production Plans Explained

LD2505134892 Vienna OPECNA in English 1157 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Vienna, 25 May 92 (OPECNA)—Kuwait Oil Minister Dr. Hamud al-Ruqba has said that he expected his country's oil production to reach 1.5 million b/d [barrels per day] at the end of this year—its OPEC-assigned quota before the onset of the Gulf crisis in August 1990.

Addressing a press conference here Saturday, he told newsmen that Kuwait planned to have an average oil production of 1.2-1.3 million b/d in the third quarter of this year.

The minister was speaking one day after OPEC's two-day mid-year ministerial conference, which decided to roll over its February production agreement, comprising an output ceiling of 22.98 million b/d, into the third quarter.

He noted that Kuwait's oil output had risen from 812,000 b/d in February to around 1 million b/d at present, a figure that would be the average for the second quarter.

"Once we reach 1.5 million b/d, the production rise will stop until such time that the country is allocated a proportional increase by the organization," he said.

Al-Ruqba said that before the Gulf crisis, Kuwait planned to boost its production capacity to 2.5 million b/d, but how long it would now take to reach that target,

was hard to say. Hopefully, he added, it would rise to something over 1.5 million b/d next year.

In the 1960s, he explained, Kuwait was producing 3.5 million b/d, at that time probably the second-highest producer after Venezuela.

Asked about oil prices, the minister predicted that OPEC's basket price would likely reach 20 dollars a barrel in the fourth quarter of this year.

He said he thought oil prices would increase as a result of the latest OPEC agreement "for many reasons".

"Almost everyone expected OPEC to increase the ceiling for the third quarter, but the organization is maintaining the same level for a period when demand is projected to be higher. This will be positive for the market," he said.

Concerning the OPEC talks, al-Ruqba said he was very happy with the outcome. Saudi Arabia, he said, had come with a suggestion for a higher ceiling for the third quarter, while Iran wanted a lower production level. The two countries had reached a compromise.

"Saudi Arabia is concerned about OPEC and not only its own interests," he stressed. "The kingdom was very co-operative at this meeting and did not insist on having a ceiling of 24 million b/d."

Regarding domestic operations, the minister said that Kuwait was currently refining about 320,000 b/d of oil, with local consumption accounting for 100,000 b/d to 140,000 b/d, depending on the time of year.

He said that the latest estimate for the cost of putting out the burning oil wells, which were set alight during the Gulf crisis, stood at 1.1 billion dollars, although this included some reconstruction work on oil facilities.

The minister pointed out that this amount was much lower than earlier estimates, which were based on the fire-extinguishing operation taking between three and five years to complete.

"It was, in fact, finished in seven months which cut down a lot on the cost," said the minister.

Asked about OPEC's next meeting in September, al-Ruqba said that with demand for OPEC oil in the fourth quarter projected to be well over 24 million b/d, he could foresee "no real problems", as long as Iraq was not back in the market.

"Demand will be higher, stocks will maybe have been drawn down in the third quarter and unless there are other issues, we should not have too many difficulties," he added.

Egypt

Cairo Trying To Halt Israeli Raids in Lebanon

NC2605091392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Beirut, 26 May (MENA)—The Lebanese newspaper AL-LIWA' reported that Egypt made several contacts during the past two days in a bid to stop the Israeli air raids on south Lebanon and to prevent any Israeli military escalation.

Citing knowledgeable sources, AL-LIWA' said that Egypt informed the United States and several Western countries of the need to pressure the Israeli Government and make it stop its air raids on south Lebanon to prevent any incitement of tension in the region, which would threaten the peace process and affect the Arab participation in general and the Lebanese in particular in the peace negotiations.

The paper pointed out that the Egyptian contacts contacted Israel through diplomatic channels. During these contacts, Egypt conveyed its stern protest about the Israeli military escalation in the south and asked the Israeli Government to prove its good intentions so that peace will be achieved with the Arab countries with which Israel is holding negotiations, including Lebanon.

Release of Israelis Suspected of Spying Detailed

NC2305102992 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 22 May 92 p 5

[Text] AL-MUSAWWAR'S diplomatic editor learned from a high-level diplomatic source that Egypt decided to release Fa'iqah Misrati, her father, and her brother, accused of spying for Israel in February, based on the State Prosecution Office's investigations, which confirmed that:

1. Despite the strong suspicions raised by the behavior of Fa'iqah Misrati and her father, the information she obtained and found with her was not important; did not threaten national security; was not of state secrets; and was mostly general information obtainable from any Egyptian newspaper.

2. Fa'iqah Misrati and her father could not establish any important ties with any responsible officials in Egypt. Most of their contacts were merely transient with various individuals.

3. The only crime they were proven to have committed was forging identification cards, helped by two juniors.

4. The State Prosecution Office stated in its final report that the defendants would probably be acquitted, because the information they obtained had no security or strategic value.

The diplomatic editor learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry rejected a request by Jewish figures in New York for President Mubarak to make a political decision, releasing Fa'iqah, her father, and her brother. The Foreign Ministry confirmed the president would not interfere in judicial affairs and that the case was in the hands of the prosecution.

The editor also learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry also rejected a similar Israeli demand, based on the testimony of Fa'iqah, her father, and her brother not showing that they could be suspected of spying, and an Israeli request for a response to its demand. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir responded in February to President Mubarak's request not to deport 12 Palestinians from the West Bank, accused by Israel of belonging to the PLO and of activating the intifadah.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said that while appreciating Shamir's response to President Mubarak's demand, the situation was different, because the Misrati family case involved spying charges and the prosecution was continuing its investigations.

The diplomatic editor learned that Shamir tried to contact President Mubarak three times over three consecutive days, but Mubarak took Shamir's call only on the third day. Shamir asked Mubarak to try his best to release the Misrati family. President Mubarak told Shamir he appreciated the Israeli prime minister not deporting the 12 Palestinians but said the investigations into the Misrati family were continuing, that the prosecution would conclude its investigations in two weeks, and that action would be taken in light of the prosecution office report.

President Mubarak also told Shamir he could do nothing if the Misratis were convicted of spying.

When the prosecution office concluded its work, President Mubarak saw no reason for not releasing the Misrati family, handing them back to Israel, because, as the prosecution office report confirmed, a trial would acquit them.

Commenting on Shamir's statement the day before yesterday that Israel kept quiet about the trial of an Egyptian in Israel about spying charges until the Misrati family was released, a senior official said: Shamir's statements are addressed to the Israeli public and aim to serve his election campaign. Shamir appears to have forgotten he has a defendant in Egypt's prisons who has been sentenced to death for smuggling drugs.

Musa Attends Foreign Ministers Meeting in Lisbon

Meets Russian, Portuguese Counterparts

NC2305182792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Lisbon, 23 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today resumed his contacts on the sidelines of the foreign ministers conference coordinating aid to the CIS. He met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. They discussed the situation in the Balkan peninsula,

particularly the offensive being launched by the Serbian militia supported by the Federal Yugoslav Army against Bosnia-Hercegovina, Egypt's position on this attack, and the importance of the international community confronting these operations. They also discussed the situation in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Musa also met with Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro and exchanged views about the latest international developments, particularly in Europe. They also discussed the situation in Yugoslavia, the proceedings of the conference on aid to the CIS, and issues of common concern.

Meets German, Other Counterparts

NC2405174992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1549 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Lisbon, 24 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister Musa met today with new German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel in their first meeting since Kinkel assumed the foreign minister portfolio, replacing Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who resigned.

During the meeting, they exchanged viewpoints about international developments, especially the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Middle East peace process, and North-South dialogue.

Both sides affirmed the identical Egyptian and German positions about the need to stop the deteriorating situation in Bosnia- Hercegovina. They also stressed the need to continue peace efforts in the Middle East and halt settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The Egyptian and German sides stressed the importance of bolstering dialogue between North and South and the pivotal role Egypt plays in this regard. Both sides also discussed the Egyptian initiative to set up a grouping of the countries on the Mediterranean Sea.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1617 GMT on 24 May reports: "Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today held a series of meetings with a number of ministers participating in the meetings of the committee for coordinating aid to the CIS states, which concluded its meetings in Lisbon.

["Musa met with the foreign ministers of the Ukraine, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan. They discussed the future of relations between Egypt and these independent republics, which were previously part of the Soviet Union.

["Musa's discussions with these officials revealed a strong desire on their and Egypt's part to bolster and develop bilateral relations in the various political, economic, and trade fields."]

Meets Envoy in Paris

NC2505155392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Paris, 25 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stopped over in Paris this afternoon en route from Lisbon to Cairo after attending a two-day ministerial conference about coordinating aid to the CIS. Egyptian Ambassador in Paris Ahmad Sidqi welcomed him.

In an arrival statement, Musa said the ministerial conference emphasized the importance of the aid fund financing CIS needs through a third party, such as Egypt. The minister said Egypt could play a role; there are benefits to be derived from its capabilities in construction, medicine, food, training, and cultural relations.

Musa said Egypt can contribute particularly well in Islamic cooperation with the Islamic Commonwealth states and in training technical cadres in computer use, data storage, and in some economic and industrial fields.

He said that during the conference he conveyed Egypt's readiness to extend to these countries its experience in economic reform and the policy of gradual transition it applied to reform. He said there is no reason why the Commonwealth states should start from scratch. They can benefit from the Egyptian experience, because Egypt's economic reform is one of the most successful of the past 10 years.

Musa said he held important meetings with several foreign ministers on the conference sidelines, including meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, new German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, the Russian foreign minister, and the northern European ministers. He also met CIS foreign ministers and invited them to visit Egypt. They reciprocated, asking him to visit their countries. The minister said the meetings provided an opportunity to discuss all the issues of interest to Egypt, the Arabs, and Muslims.

Returns; Views Israeli Measures, Libya

NC2605071392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 25 May 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening from Paris after a visit to Portugal and France.

Upon arrival, Musa said he participated in the Lisbon meetings to coordinate aid to the CIS republics. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question about the continuing Israeli aggression against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Musa said Egypt's position is centered on an elementary and decisive basis—the need to implement the Geneva agreement about the occupied territories. The occupying state should stop violating human rights in these territories and should not commit any acts that could undermine the peace process.

Musa emphasized the importance of Arab and international parties bolstering the peace process and severely confronting any violation of the Geneva agreements.

Responding to a question about the Libyan-Western crisis, Musa expressed hopes that some progress will be made in this regard and referred to Egypt's efforts to contain the crisis.

Musa also discussed the importance of continuing peace efforts in this regard. He said that progress in this direction is a must and this is what Egypt demands from Israel.

Responding to a question about the Damascus Declaration, the foreign minister said there is agreement about the need to activate the declaration as a basic step in developing Arab action.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed With Germany

NC2405175192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Egypt and Germany signed today an agreement that reschedules various Egyptian debts amounting to 3.135 billion German marks [DM]. Of this total, DM2.354 billion are government loans, and DM781 million are to facilitate trade.

Dr. Hasan Salim, first under secretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, said today that Egypt will finish paying off these debts in the year 2026.

He said the agreement contained the general framework for the conditions to reschedule Egypt's debts to the German Government and the trade debts guaranteed by the German Exports Guarantee Department. These measures are within the framework of the joint statement with the Paris Club, according to which Egypt's debts will be reduced by 50 percent. [passage omitted]

Debts With Former Soviet Union Settled

NC2305100692 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 19 May 92 p 1

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, Dr. Rafiq Suwaylim, Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade first under secretary, said that Egypt and Russia agreed to settle the outstanding debts between Egypt and the former Soviet Union. The move came in light of the agreement signed by the CIS with the approval of the CIS joint council, which controls the debts settlement between Egypt and the former Soviet Union.

Both sides agreed that Egypt will pay its debts—estimated at 1.68 billion rubles—to the Russian Federation in 19 years beginning in October. It was agreed that these debts will be paid in Egyptian currency through a special account in the Central Bank in the form of Egyptian commodities, including cotton.

An AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I correspondent learned that, regarding the Russian Federation's debts to Egypt totaling $750 million, the Russian republics will pay the debt either through direct remittance in accordance with the protocol signed between both countries in 1987 or will reschedule it. During the 11-day talks in Cairo that ended yesterday, both sides agreed to bolster trade exchange between Egypt and the CIS and to implement the trade cooperation agreement signed between Egypt and Russia on 26 December 1991. They also discussed the signing of a new agreement between both governments about economic and scientific cooperation.

The Russian delegation noted that the Russian foreign economic relations bank is authorized by the CIS to follow up the settlement of the former Soviet Union's debts. The 11-member delegation led by (Rabo Tayazif), deputy minister of economic and foreign relations, met with the Egyptian industry, electricity, economy, and international cooperation ministers. They discussed strengthening ties between Egypt and the CIS in various fields.

Russian Delegation Discusses Ties With Officials

NC2105175592 [Editorial Report]

[Editorial Report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1513 GMT on 20 May carries an item about the arrival in Cairo of a Russian parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko. MENA says the delegation will be in Cairo for five days, during which time "it will meet with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur to discuss ways to strengthen Egyptian-Russian parliamentary relations."

In an arrival statement, the delegation head "said he hopes his visit to Egypt will contribute to developing Egyptian-Russian relations on the popular and government levels, especially considering the close, friendly relations that existed between the Egyptian and Russian people for years."

The report says that Deputy People's Assembly Speaker Dr. 'Abd- al-Ahad Jamal al-Din welcomed the Russian delegation to Egypt.

At 1149 GMT on 21 May, MENA reports: "People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur met with today the Russian parliamentary delegation currently visiting Egypt." The report adds: "Discussions centered on strengthening bilateral parliamentary relations" and says that the Russian delegation is interested in Egypt's democratic and parliamentary experience.

At 1415 GMT on 21 May, the press agency reports that Foreign Minister Musa met with the delegation, adding: "The discussions dealt with bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the issues that will be discussed at the Lisbon meeting this Saturday concerning aid to the CIS."

Meets With Al-Baz

NC2305174392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with members of the Russian parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko. Al-Baz briefed the delegation about developments in the Middle East situation and Egypt's efforts to advance the peace process in the region. He stressed the importance of concerting all efforts to overcome obstacles impeding the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Both sides discussed developments in Eastern Europe and the means to boost relations between Egypt and Russia in all domains.

Meets With Arab League Head

NC2405142192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with today the members of the Russian parliamentary delegation—headed by Mr. Vladimir Shumeyko, deputy speaker of the Russian parliament—currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Middle East and Arab efforts to advance the peace process in the region.

Departs 24 May

NC2405180592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—The Russian parliamentary delegation led by Vladimir Shumeyko, deputy speaker of the Russian parliament, left Cairo this evening at the end of a visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Hungarian Trade Deputy Holds Talks 23 May

NC2305081292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—Mr. Tikli, deputy Hungarian minister of trade and industry [name as received], left Cairo early this morning after a week-long visit to Egypt.

The Hungarian official held talks during his visit with Industry Ministry officials about bolstering cooperation between Egypt and Hungary in various fields and about possibly opening markets in both countries. He also held talks with Defense and War Production officials about the same topic.

Surur Meets With Economic Unity Council Leader

NC2305145692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur today met with Dr. Hasan Ibrahim, secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC], about the return of the Council's headquarters to Cairo. The talks dealt with the joint Arab economic work plan in light of current circumstances in the Arab world and international changes.

The AEUC secretary general expressed the hope that the Egyptian People's Assembly will support Arab economic action and the economic unity agreement before establishing the Arab common market.

Commentary Cites 'Peaceful Means' to Libyan Issue

NC2205190592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 May 92

[Ahmad al-Razzaz commentary: "Where is the Libyan-Western Crisis Going?"]

[Text] Every time the Libyan crisis reaches a climax, a glimmer of hope appears on the horizon leading us to hope for a peaceful settlement. We repeat: a peaceful settlement, because the undesirable option of danger and grave consequences still exists. The United States has not budged one inch from its position that the two Libyan suspects be handed over for trial. The rigidity of the crisis lies in the fact that the Libyan side is convinced that handing over both suspects infringes on Libya's dignity and national sovereignty. Washington, on the other hand, believes that UN Resolution 731 must be implemented to the letter, which means the Tripoli government has to hand over the suspects—Libyan citizens—something it will not do.

We still cling to the hope that this crisis can end peacefully, as expressed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa before he departed for Lisbon and the conference for the CIS states. In these statements, Musa said that new efforts have emerged to solve the crisis. He said these initiatives include the new Libyan initiative, which proposed negotiation with Britain. The basis of this negotiation lies in Libyan affirmations to the London government that Libyan support to the IRA has ended. This shows the British Government that the Libyan Jamahariyah is moving away from terrorism—in fact, it is even condemning and combating it.

Even if we accept that the British Government will take a more lenient position about the Libyan Jamahiriyah and open a new chapter in bilateral ties—severed since 1969—and if we accept that French President Francois Mitterrand is now convinced that the military option will yield no results—on the contrary, that it might have negative repercussions—the U.S. Government position, due to media pressure and a charged American public, would still not be ready for a dialogue or leniency.

Nevertheless, there still seems to be a glimmer of hope. Honest and concerted efforts are being exerted by a number of countries, foremost of which is Egypt, to avoid a setback, which could expand if the U.S. decides to militarily strike the Libyan Jamahariyah. What is needed in this extremely critical period is efforts to end this intractable crisis through peaceful means. These efforts must extend to countries that have political influence. These efforts also require active, honest, and extensive moves by the UN secretary general, through which all would require much effort, the terrible danger facing the world can be averted. Undoubtedly, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's talks in Cairo confirmed to him the position of Egypt and the Arab world in general, both of which also confirm that the military option cannot be a solution since it would create reactions.

Interior Minister Musa on Security Situation

NC2205193592 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 22 May 92 pp 16-18

[Interview with Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Sana's al-Sa'id; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] What about the recent extremist events in Egypt? Do they originate in Egypt or are they imported from abroad?
[Musa] They cannot be of Egyptian origin or identity, especially when one considers the Egyptian people's nature, historic civilization, and tolerant religious values that renounce terrorism and extremism.

[Al-Sa'id] What, then, are the sources of the extremism?
[Musa] Religious extremism is one facet of terrorism being exported from abroad, particularly from countries in the area where extremism prevails or is supported by the ruling regime.

[Al-Sa'id] Some say that Tunisia has succeeded in eliminating the phenomenon of extremism by treating it just like a terrorist phenomenon. We in Egypt continue to suffer from this phenomenon.
[Musa] We are dealing decisively with extremism within its true framework. At the same time, we are deeply convinced of our role in protecting the democratic process and of strongly confronting any deviation from constitutional and legal legitimacy.

[Al-Sa'id] What are the real dimensions of the recent events in Dayrut? Some have even said it was more like a communal sedition.
[Musa] That incident was nothing more than a feud over a house between two families (one Muslim, the other Christian) that was exploited by known extremist elements belonging to the family that initiated the incident. Some extremist elements from one of the families tried to give the feud a sectarian dimension within the framework of their plans to strike at the stability of the domestic front and harm the bases of national unity between the nation's two sects. Some people have speculated about the motives and reasons and have attempted to exaggerate them.

We want facts, which is why I went to the People's Assembly soon after the incident to explain what really happened. To those who want to describe these events as communal sedition, I say that they are far from being so. We are a peace-loving people that reveres divine religions. We are a society in which Muslims and Christians have been living together for years.

[Al-Sa'id] Do foreign forces finance the extremist groups in Egypt?
[Musa] Yes, but the financing has greatly diminished recently. The extremist groups have been forced to rob jewelry stores and commit other crimes to get money for their terrorist activities. On the other hand, some extremist leaders who are abroad are still financially backing their elements in the country. For example, we have confirmed that 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman transferred around $140,000 to Egypt.

[Al-Sa'id] Can we say secret groups abroad play a role in causing the extremists to carry out their terrorist operations in Egypt?
[Musa] There is no doubt about this. There are of course secret groups abroad, including Tehran and other countries, that are planning and training for such operations. The security forces monitor and observe these groups. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] To what extent can it be said that weapons are being smuggled into the country across the borders with neighboring countries?
[Musa] I cannot completely deny that attempts have been made to smuggle weapons into the country across the borders. The security forces are trying to stop these attempts, the last of which was the seizure of a Toyota coming from Sudan with 63 automatic rifles hidden in it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Do you still insist that the security situation in Egypt is good?
[Musa] With the help of God. All we have to do is compare what happens here to what happens abroad. For example, consider the recent events in Los Angeles, where many people were killed and 18,000 were arrested, and the event in England a few days ago when the English police confronted the motorcycle gang.

Despite what Amnesty International and the human rights organizations say about us, and despite the emergency law, nothing near the scale of what happened in Los Angeles has ever happened here. U.S. special forces, Army, and Navy were sent there in an attempt to contain the situation.

It is enough to say that the number of political and criminal detainees in Egypt is less than 1,000. We believe in democracy. It would have been very easy for us to massacre democracy, but we are not a police state and we

will not be one. We are a democratic state that believes in dialogue, opinion, and debate.

Libya

Military Spokesman Cited on Aborted Coup

LD2605172492 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tripoli—Monte Carlo radio has quoted a Libyan military spokesman as saying that an attempted coup was aborted. The attempted coup was undertaken today by four Libyan Air Force officers. Monte Carlo radio said that the four officers had been arrested and are currently being interrogated. The radio, however, did not give any other details.

Vocational Training Discussed With Iran

LD2205201392 Tripoli JANA in English 0837 GMT 22 May 92

[Arab Maghreb Union "Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' [May] 22, JANA—Libyan-Iranian discussions on formation and vocational training began in Tripoli this morning attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Formation and Vocational Training and Hoseyn Kamali the Iranian minister of labour and social affairs.

This meeting is to take place in accordance with the final communique of previous meeting which was held in Tehran in al-Ma' [May] last year.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Formation and Vocational Training stressed on the importance of bolstering the fraternal relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Iran in the various areas. He said that this meeting which is being held in Tripoli upholds the depth of relations between the two countries particularly in this conditions which the Arab nation and Islamic [word indistinct] are passing through and specifically the [passage indistinct].

In his speech in the opening session, the secretary praised the depth of the fraternal relations which bind the two friendly peoples. He stressed on the need to support and strengthen these relations in all areas for the benefit of the two countries.

The Iranian Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Hoseyn Kamali also gave a speech in which he reiterated the solidarity of the Iranian people with the Great Jamahariyah in its resistance to the [word indistinct] colonialist campaign which it is facing. He emphasised the desire of the Iranian people to bolster and improve the ongoing relations with the Libyan people in all areas.

Kamali also praised the great achievements of the Libyan people in all areas wrought by the al-Fatih revolution. A number of those specialized in formation and vocational training from both countries attending the opening session. It is important to note that during these meetings improving cooperation in the areas of preparing trainers, training equipment and training of the productive family will be discussed.

The basis of joint coordination between the two countries within the international organizations will also be discussed.

Minutes on Cooperation Signed

LD2305015192 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met on 22 May with brother Hoseyn Kamali, Iranian minister of labor and social affairs, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. The minutes of a meeting on vocational training were signed at the al-Mahari Hotel in Tripoli by the brother secretary of the General's People's Committee for Vocational Training and brother Hoseyn Kamali, minister of labor and social affairs for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The minutes included the consolidation of facets of cooperation in the field of vocational training, especially matters related to training program exchanges. The minutes also included plans to hold training sessions to improve the competence of trainers at training centers and the exchange of technical expertise in various vocational fields between the Great Jamahiriyah and Iran.

Military Intelligence Director Receives Moroccans

LD2305215392 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma'[May] 23, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—Major Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi this morning received the delegation of Moroccan parties who are on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah to attend the proceedings of the Basic People's Congresses.

During his meeting with the delegation of the Moroccan parties, Major Khuwaylidi expressed his appreication for the stance of solidarity taken by the parties with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and their attendance of the proceedings of the Basic People's Congresses to see the democracy applied in the Great Jamahiriyah through the People's Congresses.

Analysing the international political situation, Major Khuwaylidi told the members of the delegation that there will be no future and survival of the Arab nation without unity. He called for the need to continue dialogue and intensify contacts between the secretariat of the General People's Congress and Moroccan parties in a manner enhancing and consolidating bilateral relat6ions and unionist steps.

Present at the meeting was the secretary for the affairs of the People's Congresses to the Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

Morocco

King Hassan Interviewed on Regional Issues

NC2605153892 London MBC Television in Arabic 1838 GMT 25 May 92

[Interview with King Hassan II of Morocco by MBC Television correspondent 'Irfan Nizam-al-Din; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Nizam-al-Din] Your Majesty: The Arabs and Muslims have always sought your opinion on crucial events and whenever the Arab nation encounters problems and shocks. They want to hear a voice of reason, wisdom, and good advice to gather their ranks and face the current challenges. There are several questions on Arab and Islamic affairs. Let us begin with the peace process, which has been continuing for more than eight months. There are doubts about its course. Given your international and Arab status, we want to reassure the Arab masses.

[Hassan] I have always believed in dialogue. I belong to a school of thought which believes in dialogue and struggle. Dialogue alone is not enough nor is struggle alone. The Arab demands are one—liberating the Palestinian lands and establishing a Palestinian entity. I have not read in any Arab or Islamic diplomatic school that dialogue with the adversary is prohibited. On the contrary, the prophet, may God's prayers and peace be with him, has given us examples and arguments on this. Any struggle must be built on wisdom, or, in modern terms, strategy; in this connection, strategy and wisdom are synonymous.

Thanks be to God, everyone knows the Arab cause focuses on it. Fairness to Arabs is being discussed in a way that it has never been discussed before; previously, only the victory of oppression, injustice, and usurping were mentioned. Naturally, not everything can be achieved at once. I do not want to teach or preach; I prefer to sincerely advise all the Arabs directly concerned with the issue. I tell them all, not only the Palestinians and the Syrians, that it is up to them how they negotiate. Do not forget the most important issue, the land. You must remind the occupier that anything is possible, but he must admit that the land is not his and he must recognize the Arab rights.

The multilateral talks agenda does not directly or indirectly concern Morocco. There is disarmament in the region; we do not belong to the region. There is the water issue; we do not share water with Israel. There is the exchange of economic, trade, and human interests; we conduct no trade or banking transactions with Israel. We attended the multilateral talks to show the Arabs our symbolic support, even though we have no direct interests, and because we believe the negotiating parties will raise the land issue at every opportunity, as well as UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. As long as the talks have an agenda and are based on Resolutions 242 and 338, we will win the case. It will take time, but ultimately we will win the case.

[Nizam-al-Din] But Your Majesty, the Israeli intransigence has gone too far. Soon there will be Israeli elections. Do you expect a change in the Israeli stand in light of what you said about the Arab insistence on dialogue and adherence to the territories and rights?

[Hassan] First, we must compare Israel's stand when the negotiations started with its stand of today. Analyzing these, we find they are based on slight concessions; added together, they will become significant. What is the reality now? Did we expect Israel to capitulate or the intifadah to continue without violent reaction, especially on the eve of elections? Israel wants to mobilize public opinion or remind those hesitating between the two parties that Israel's safety and future lie in the policy of violence and aggression. There is a proverb which says that water does not flow back to its source. We, not Israel, must sail the boat of salvation.

[Nizam-al-Din] Your Majesty, do you believe the Bush administration is serious about establishing peace?

[Hassan] Very frankly, I know what my testimony means. For the first time in 32 years, I have sensed that there is a U.S. President who is determined and willing to solve this problem on the bases of justice and law. I believe President Bush because I know him. I knew him before he became president, when he was an ambassador and CIA director. The man has not changed. His word is his bond and he abides by his commitment. The last time I saw him was at the Waldorf Astoria on 30 January 1992, when the Security Council held its summit. He told me: My friend, tell your Arab brothers, especially the Palestinians, that, for a long time, they will find no better support than that given by my government and administration, support which I will continue to give even though I am going through an election year. I believe I declare this testimony accurately.

[Nizam-al-Din] Your majesty, there is another issue related to peace—Jerusalem. You, as head of the Jerusalem Islamic Committee, have fought in international circles and forums. There is concern about the future of the Islamic holy places. Recently, we heard of the threats to the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of Rock and of the noble initiative announced by the custodian of the two holy mosques. How do you assess the condition of these holy places in Jerusalem and this initiative?

[Hassan] What can I say? The circumstances and the timing make it a surprise, but not for my brother King Fahd, because he is committed to noble, silent, humble, and useful deeds. [passage omitted]

The Saudi Kingdom is undertaking a noble deed, headed by its king, the custodian of the two holy mosques, leading his people. As chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, the most I can say is: Enough sensitivities. [Words indistinct] or to say what one Arab country should or should not do are sensitivities we can dispense

with. The building is crumbling and urgently needs repairs. We must take the quickest route to save what we can. As the king of Morocco and as a Moroccan citizen, I hope our brother his majesty King Fahd will accept our engineering and technical expertise in the repair, construction, and engineering work. That would be his majesty the king's best gift to Morocco and to his brother Hassan.

[Nizam-al-Din] In light of the close relationship between Morocco and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and their role in achieving regional security and stability, are there joint initiatives to cement Arab ranks? [passage omitted]

[Hassan] It is our duty to gather Arab ranks. The world is changing following the collapse of the Soviet Union. [passage omitted] There will be quick and surprising changes, the impacts of which are unknown. The Arabs must unite, because the vote of 22 countries united on one issue is stronger than that of individual countries which comprise groupings, Gulf, Maghreb, or others. [passage omitted] By closing our ranks, we will not be taken by surprise, but if we are taken by surprise, we will not be the victims. If any danger threatens us on the shores of the Atlantic or the Gulf, we will all stand united behind the state which is facing the dangers. I cannot speculate on how and when a meeting to marshal the Arabs will take place. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] Is this an indirect call for an Arab summit or a plan to call for such a summit?

[Hassan] No, there is no plan. It is a call not out of courtesy, but out of need and in the Arab interest. We need the Arab nation to meet. For that to happen, Arab leaders must forget their differences. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] Is the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] facing a setback or is this mere rumor?

[Hassan] [passage omitted] The AMU is facing political obstacles, not a setback. Following consultations and exchanges, the Mauritanian president decided to postpone the AMU summit because the current circumstances might not lead to the positive results we seek. We share his view and support his request to postpone the conference. This does not mean we will forget or neglect the AMU. There are precedents for postponing conferences. The AMU agreement is still valid and the Maghreb train remains on the right track. Some may say the train has stopped, but its engines have not.

[Nizam-al-Din] The AMU is facing a new crisis over the Lockerbie issue. Is there a solution, are there other mediatory moves, or have we reached a dead end?

[Hassan] The Lockerbie crisis is not a Maghreb or Arab crisis. It is primarily a legal crisis, but is there a legal precedent in international law or are there international laws on which the request to extradite citizens can be based? If I was the brother colonel I would ask the Libyan people, because they will be the ones the blockade will harm. [passage omitted] If, God forbid, this was my problem, I would follow the political wisdom that says politics is not a choice between good and better, but between bad and worse. I would choose to sacrifice two of my citizens to save my people.

If the problem was only between two countries, say France and Morocco, Morocco would stand up to defend its sovereignty, but, regrettably, the problem is not between the United States and Libya; it is between Libya and the international community, acting through the Security Council. [passage omitted]

We know what continues to happen to Iraq. We know the difficulties that face a country facing international sanctions. I told his envoy: To ease my brother the colonel's conscience, tell him that if, God forbid, I found myself in such a dilemma, [words indistinct] I would hesitate, but [words indistinct].

[Nizam-al-Din] Especially, Your Majesty, after you have tried so hard on the international level, publicly and, according to my information, secretly, Morocco is still trying to find a way out...

[Hassan] [interrupting] Morocco's efforts are continuing. When I say hand them over, I am not saying let us put them in a box and hand them over. I mean Libya should declare that it accepts the principle of handover and will do so. It will then find goodwill in circles and countries, working to find a solution to save its dignity and its face—assuming it announces this.

[Nizam-al-Din] Your Majesty, there is another Maghreb-Arab-Islamic issue, the western Sahara. Are you satisfied with the measures to hold the referendum and has the United Nations set a date?

[Hassan] We are ready to hold the referendum at any time. We are not obstructing or delaying it. Everyone knows Morocco is committed, although not completely happy with the recent Security Council resolutions on the Sahara. We were hoping for more but we will not accept less than the Security Council resolution of 31 December 1991. We hoped for more, but we will not accept less. We are ready to hold the referendum at any time to solve this problem for everyone. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] In an interview I had with Algerian President Boudiaf two months ago, he told me—I believe for the first time in the history of this crisis—that Algeria has something to do with this issue and that there is a vital and urgent need for an Algerian-Moroccan agreement to resolve this crisis. I believe you received President Boudiaf two days ago. Is there a change in the Algerian stand?

[Hassan] [passage omitted] We met for the first time in 30 years. It was not a planned meeting. We discussed our countries' own problems and those common to both countries. I found that Boudiaf has his own stand on the Sahara problem. He has become the Algerian president and must consider, as he has said, the Algerian and

African circumstances. I sensed that his excellency the president is determined to find a final and quick solution to this problem. How? When? By whom? All these points were left for later.

[Nizam-al-Din] Have Algerian-Moroccan relations improved after recent changes and developments?

[Hassan] Bilateral ties have improved in the past few years, helped by King Fahd's magnanimous role in helping to restore them. We visited Algeria and President Chadli Bendjedid visited us. King Fahd helped us reach this stage of no discord and of reconciliation between the head of the Algerian state and the Moroccan king. Recent events in Algeria have not affected bilateral relations. They have remained good within the bilateral and Maghreb frameworks. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] Your Majesty, your views on radicalism are well known. How can we repulse this danger and return to true Islam?

[Hassan] We should not mix religion and policy; we should not make Islam a tool to fulfill expansionist ambitions, wherever the ambitious are in the Islamic world. We must combat illiteracy among the Arabs and Muslims to ward off fanaticism, removing it from the path of every Muslim. We must be tolerant and possess the spirit of tolerance. I believe that if Islam wants to deliver a universal message and if we Muslims want to prove that our prophet, God's peace and blessing be on him, was the last of the prophets and was sent to the whole world, then we should not be fanatics. [passage omitted].

[Nizam-al-Din] Your Majesty, Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and elsewhere, such as in Burma, are being persecuted. Is there an Arab-Muslim plan to confront this persecution. How can it be confronted?

[Hassan] Looked at objectively, we see that Muslims are being killed and massacred east and west. The Security Council should have raised its voice, but nothing happened, even though the Muslims in Bosnia are not of Arab lineage. This shows that the issue is not against the Arabs, but against Islam. There is another reason for the Arabs and Muslims to meet and take a united stand. We must reconcile our differences and look to the future for the sake of Islam and Muslims and for upholding our religion. I always say that a politician is like a taxi driver; he must see what is in front of him, but also look in the mirror at what is behind him. If he keeps looking back, he collides with something in front of him. We must make efforts to help our brothers in Bosnia and Burma. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] What is the future of the relationship of Morocco, the Maghreb Union, and the Arab world with a united Europe? How do you view it?

[Hassan] I cannot talk about a future between the Arab or Maghreb countries and Europe, but I believe that the Arab countries, the Maghreb grouping, and Morocco have a future with the EC. The EC cannot dispense with Morocco, the Maghreb grouping, or the Arab countries—for one reason. Europe looks to the north, east, and south. [passage omitted]

Wherever it looks, it meets an Arab country or a group of Arab countries. Some 15 km from Europe, Morocco is easy to reach. It is the first stepping stone for the Maghreb grouping. An eastern Arab economic grouping could also be the bridge to Europe through Turkey and Eastern Europe.

The EC cannot live in isolation; it needs to look east for its oil and west and south for its security. We must be ready to cooperate. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] Your Majesty, you are a member of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon. There is a worrying question for the Arabs: In view of recent events in Lebanon, do you believe the peace process is continuing? Or has it stalled?

[Hassan] Lebanon's problem is perplexing. That is what I told Mrs. Mu'awwad, the wife of former President Mu'awwad, when she asked me the same question. I told her I am certain there is a conspiracy against Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese pound fell sharply, down to 2,000 pounds to the dollar, in two or three months. This did not happen during 15 years of war. This is perplexing and also proves there is a conspiracy. I do not know where it started or how it will end, but there is no doubt that it is a conspiracy. My analysis of the Lebanese problem stops here.

[Nizam-al-Din] MBC is widespread in Arab countries and Europe. In these critical circumstances, what would you tell the Arabs?

[Hassan] My message to the Arabs is this: My Arab brother and sister, beware of inferiority complexes at all times, because they can creep up and take control of us. There is no justification for them, but there also is no justification for being satisfied with our lot. We know that others are not better than us. We can be like the others or even better than them if we believe in ourselves and plant our feet on the ground, walk firmly and realistically, and base the Arabs' future on man himself. The message has no beginning or end. It starts with man, who must work to create the noble and productive man. This requires that we should not have any inferiority complex and that we should not be satisfied with our lot. This is my message to the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Turabi Interviewed on Regional Relations

NC2305112092 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 May 92 p 10

[Interview with Hasan al-Turabi, National Islamic Front leader in Sudan, by correspondent Hisham Milhim in Washington—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Milhim] How would you assess U.S.-Sudanese relations following the United States' criticism in the past few months of "terrorism" and Sudan's ties with Iran and its denouncing the transfer of Sudanese factions from the capital to desert camps? Will relations remain cool or will they deteriorate or improve?

[al-Turabi] I think ties with the United States will improve. Despite the apprehension about security, U.S. diplomacy continued to focus on humanitarian aid while Sudan sought to free itself of relief aid and focused on development so as not to become a begging country. Certain American circles provided some free aid, using charity as a cover. Sudan sought to do without this aid and even to put itself in a position to provide aid. These differences in views should not cause tension or crisis. The security issue has not developed into a crisis. Sudan's position on the Gulf crisis, as many Americans tell me, is a cloud they hope will pass by and they insist they do not want future ties to rest on it. I am prompted to think ties with the United States will improve because there is no significant or objective reason for differences. Several attempts were made to uproot the new Sudanese regime, but Sudan decisively ended the argument. Those who were lying in wait and showed reservations about cooperating with it now realize Sudan's regime is real and they had better cooperate with it.

[Milhim] Much was written in U.S. and Arab newspapers about the visit to Khartoum by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in December. Did not part of the reports came from official sources and say the so-called Iranian-Sudanese axis threatens certain regimes?

[al-Turabi] This is because the Islamic phenomenon is a newcomer and, as such, people will be suspicious because it will remind them of the European fear of Islam. Any such feeling can be blown out of all proportion. President Rafsanjani's visit came when Iran had opened up to all the other Arab countries and those elsewhere, particularly Europe. Sudan was open to all the Asian countries so the time was favorable for Sudan and Iran to meet. There has been nothing in these ties to cause all this furor, but it is what these ties may symbolize that raised all this fear. There are parties in the region which perhaps compete with Iran over its security role in the Gulf—this does not concern Sudan—and were jealous, provoked by Rafsanjani's visit. These parties fanned the fire of sedition and propaganda.

[Milhim] Criticisms and accusations are leveled at you in the region and outside, claiming that you represent the major force in Sudan, but you are not at the forefront in that you practice real power without bearing direct responsibility for the government. Does this reflect your role in Sudan?

[al-Turabi] I am a leader of current Islamic thinking in Sudan; perhaps my relations outside Sudan are an extension of this intellectual thinking. Since the Sudanese Government is following the Islamic course, one will eventually have an indirect role in developing Islamic visions. What is wrong with your evaluation of my role is that I do not have the time nor do I have the interest in following the affairs of the state, ruling it covertly from my home. Had I cared about that and had the government been close to me, as you say, I would have had a position in the government. How could I take on the responsibility of administering the government, but not take on a position of authority that befits this responsibility? [passage omitted]

[Milhim] We hear from the Americans that Egypt has alarmed Washington and is itself alarmed by Sudan's foreign policy, especially after Rafsanjani's visit. What is the state of Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[al-Turabi] The popular relationship between Egypt and Sudan is a very strong one, guaranteeing the unchangeable factors of the relations between them. No government in Sudan or Egypt can stray too far from this strong and basic relationship because it is as a result of this that they must reach common ground. These political relations have always had complications because Egypt—I do not mean the people, but the government—once invaded Sudan for colonial purposes, not expansion as happens with Muslims, but to exploit gold, impose taxes, and get slaves from Sudan.

The Egyptian Government reached its lowest level when it worked with the English, who were playing smart and managing their policies behind the people's backs. The ugly face up front was that of the Egyptian administration, which gave the Sudanese people complexes. Come independence, the Egyptian Government insisted Sudan was part of Egypt under the Egyptian crown. This proposition hurt the Sudanese people's pride and dignity because they did not want to be ruled under the Egyptian crown. Some rulers in Egypt formed the impression that Sudan rebelled against the Egyptian crown, which created some problems between the two countries and which is why, every now and then, confrontation takes place between Sudan and Egypt.

Sudan is currently assuming the mantle of a legal Islamic personality, while Egypt has not yet done so, although it is more entitled because it has a stronger historical link with religion. The Sudanese example might suggest something to the Egyptian man on the street, which could create problems. Sudan's status is rising in Africa, thus changing its relationship with Egypt. The relationship between the two countries needs to be adapted. Even in the same family, when the young grow up to equal the older generation, or when they take over, the new relationship might create some tensions. People need time to adjust.

Sudan became independent in its foreign stances and adopted some alongside Egypt, especially on the Gulf issue and the Madrid talks. It took an even stronger stand than Egypt on Libya. The current stage finds it reverting to firm principles to sidestep the complications that create sides. Relations between Egypt and Sudan

eased slightly for some months and the contradictory statements quieted down. We hope the water will again follow its traditional course. We also hope people will accept the new status quo in Sudan. It will last and progress.

[Milhim] How are your relations with the Gulf states after the Gulf War—your personal relations and those of Sudan?

[al-Turabi] I had very good relations with the Saudi regime and people and with their ideological, social, and religious leaders. Sudan had a special status in view of the number of Sudanese working in Saudi Arabia and the people's appreciation of them. I believe Sudan and myself are just as popular. The revival of the Islamic movement there has perhaps strengthened the relationship between the Sudanese Islamic pattern and the example the Saudi people are aspiring to achieve.

The Saudi Government does accuse Sudan of being unfaithful to the cordial relations between the two countries, but Sudan does not build its stands on the basis of friendships and material interests. Sudan adopted a principled stand, which it expressed in a way that would harm no one. It expressed this stand frankly and strongly. All the intimidations and blandishments did not make Sudan change its stand, which has remained firm. Relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sudan are cold, but not tense. Popular and trade relations are progressing and prospering.

[Milhim] What are your reservations about the Middle East peace process and why do you oppose it?

[al-Turabi] Sudan is far from the issue geographically but close to it emotionally, so it need not be closer to pragmatism than idealism. That is why the three Khartoum no's [Resolutions of the Arab summit held in Khartoum after the 1967 war, which declared: No peace, no conciliation, and no recognition of Israel] were declared in Sudan. Sudan wants to preserve the genuine Arab stand. Even the inner stand of the Arabs who went to Madrid is close to Sudan's stand, but the international situation obliged them to accept these talks because they have no other option. We want to preserve the original Arab stand so that it will not be lost. Perhaps the international climate will change and so will the Arab situation. If so, we will be able to preserve our rights in their original equation without relinquishing them for realistic necessities. Sudan does not want to upstage others.

[Milhim] You have spoken about the West's duplicity. Have not many seen the wide gap between the United States' silence on the Algerian events and its strong and punitive stand on the Peruvian events?

[al-Turabi] This has been more evident in the European stand. Europe supported democracy in North Africa and when democracy gave birth to an Islamic child it wanted the child returned to where it came from. Europe turned a blind eye to the undemocratic practices in North Africa and reconciled with some parties hostile to democracy. Europe allocated huge funds to bribing North Africa not to follow Islam. We wish Europe had retained its credibility about human rights and other things.

[Milhim] Have not events in Algeria raised questions and fears that the Islamic movements would move away from the electoral process and change through public channels, opting for going underground and resorting to force?

[al-Turabi] The question is now hotly debated by Islamic movements, which believed in peaceful means because that is the Islamic line; you keep on trying patiently until you despair. Have we reached despair? Can the liberal channels as they apply in our countries also embrace Islam? Or is Islam a radical change? The regime cannot accept such a fundamental change. It might accept shades of it but it will not accept another concept. This is the question today. Events in Algeria do not give cause for comfort because the other democracies will not reconcile themselves to a limited Islamic awakening, but to one that might bring about a radical change. Persecution of Islamic movements in every Muslim country could become an asset for the revolution. People complain about revolutions and their excesses, but they are forcibly pushing the people to this last resort to express themselves.

Those who reject peaceful evolution, oppose it, and reject gradual progress are responsible for turning history toward change by force and toward the single leap to overall change, instead of achieving these changes gently and gradually. No Islamist wants the resources of this nation—which has been racked by disputes, regionalism, and partisan ways—to be dissipated. We do not want societies to be torn by conflicts between the rulers and the ruled. Our resources are very limited and we are facing great challenges, so we must rally and unite these resources to be our strength against any enemy or in our greater renaissance.

[Milhim] Do you see as an anachronism the attitude of those who are saying the coup in Algeria came to save democracy, because the Islamic movements which used the democratic channels wanted to turn against these channels after taking power?

[al-Turabi] [laughing scornfully] Therefore we must massacre democracy with our own hand and not with the hands of others? This is an amazing logic. It is one thing for people to believe this, but for others to find a value in it is ridiculous. This is one of the painful farces.

Members of Delegation to Abuja Talks Named

EA2605120092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 25 May 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 May (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government delegation to negotiate peace and led by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the

Transitional National Council, left for Abuja, the Nigerian capital, today to participate in the negotiations slated to begin on 26 May with the participation of two delegations of the rebel movement under the chairmanship of Nigerian President Babangida.

The government negotiation delegation also comprises Police Brigadier George Kongor, governor of Bahr al-Ghazal; Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, minister of welfare and social development; Dr. 'Abdallah Idris, minister of justice and attorney general; 'Uthman 'Abd al-Qadir, minister of construction and public works; Dr. Ali Al-hajj, chairman of the public investments board; Brigadier Kamal Ali Mukhtar from the Armed Forces; Angelo Beda, Equatorial State minister of political affairs; and Peter Charliman, commissioner of Sobat Province.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, met the peace negotiation delegation prior to its departure and presented it with a letter addressed to Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida on the role of [words indistinct] exchanges of view during the negotiations, and briefing the delegates on exchanges of view in order to make the negotiations successful, the bases and principles, and the hopes of the Sudanese people for the achievement of peace. [passage omitted]

Lam Akol on Internal Split, Military Situation

PM2205103292 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 May 92 p 8

[Interview with Lam Akol, head of the External Relations and Peace Department of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement—al-Nasir wing, by Yusuf Khazim; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khazim] The Sudanese Army seems to be on its way to rooting out your movement in southern Sudan. How do you see the future of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in the light of current military developments?

[Akol] It is impossible to root out a guerrilla movement like the SPLM. There is a misunderstanding that government army's recapturing of some southern towns means that the SPLM has been rooted out completely. That is a misunderstanding. We have never existed in towns in the first place. The SPLM was born in the bush, grew up and became semi-regular, then later occupied towns. That is the nature of guerrilla warfare, which is conducted in stages: It begins with our occupation of towns, then government forces recapture some of them, then we recapture them again until victory is achieved. [passage omitted]

[Khazim] How do you see a solution?

[Akol] Negotiation is the only solution, because our issue is political and can only be resolved politically. We are seeking to clarify this fact to all the parties concerned in order press for a dialogue to avert war, which is futile.

[Khazim] The Sudanese Government offered a solution which it regarded as just, namely, to adopt a federal system that allows southerners to apply the laws and regulations that they deem suitable for them...

[Akol] A federal system entails a central federal government in which all provinces, including the South, participate. The parliament in Khartoum would include members from all provinces. In both cases you will find that the majority controlling the federal government and parliament is Muslim, so whatever decisions it makes would be implemented even if they are unfair to us. The government's claim that southerners are entitled to choose the system they want is propaganda designed to portray the regime as a tolerant one that believes in the freedom of religion throughout the country. But the regime, for example, is imposing the Islamic Shari'ah on the southerners who live in the North. There are 2 millions of them. They refuse to accept that the islamic Shari'ah be applied on them, simply because they are not Muslims.

Some Sudanese liberals say: "Let us accept that system and we can make a change later." I reject that view at a time when southerners are being killed by the government. The only solution that we support is to separate Sudan's South from its North.

Since its establishment the SPLM has demanded a secular, democratic Sudan. We have engaged in long battles to that end. But this demand is now difficult to achieve because of the growing strength of the Islamic groups in the North and their determination to apply the Shari'ah in their areas. We do not want to demand that the northerners not apply the Islamic Shari'ah. At the same time we do not expect them to impose the Shari'ah on us in the South. So the only solution is separation, which allows each part to apply the laws that it deems compatible with citizens' wishes and beliefs. [passage omitted]

[Khazim] What is the effect of the split within the SPLM on the ongoing battles?

[Akol] The split within the SPLM has had a major impact and continues to affect the course of the ongoing battles. This, because when the movement was united, the planning and execution of military attacks was united. Besides, Garang's forces are attacking our forces, when we used to attack the enemy... Not only that; in fact Garang's forces evacuated many areas without resistance to open the way to government forces to enable them to reach our positions and hit us. All these operations have had a negative impact on the movement's unity and strength.

Akol Interviewed on Peace Talks

EA2505071592 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1800 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpts] Rebel leader of the Sudanese [People's] Liberation Army, SPLA, John Garang, has moved his command post to a station near the Uganda-Sudanese border following a week of heavy bombardment from Khartoum government forces. [passage omitted]

Dr. Lam Akol of the Torit [as heard and captioned] faction of the SPLA recently spoke to KTN and highlighted the problems that would need to be addressed before peace is restored in the Sudan.

[Begin Akol voice recording] While we go to Abuja talks this time, all the parties should be conscious and aware of the fact that any insistence on a united Sudan is a futile attempt. It can only lead to more loss of life. The only way forward is to achieve separate existence on the table rather than on the battle field with the animosities and hard feelings and hatred that goes with it. We believe that, and the southern Sudanese believe the same, that the war should be fought for the south—not the elastic theory being advanced by the other faction that the south should fight to liberate the whole Sudan. It is not our business to tell the northerners that they should rise against the regime or get out of the situation they are in. It is up to them. They can make their own decisions. But we believe southern blood should not be shed to fight a war which is not theirs. Their war is to get their rights, to get their independence, to get their place in the constellation of nations in the world. [end recording]

SPLA Official Comments on Peace Talks

AB2505145092 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 25 May 92

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] It seems there is no end in sight to Sudan's nine-year long civil war. But the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, is convinced he can mediate a solution. Tomorrow, he will sit down with the warring parties, consisting of representatives from the Sudan Government and from the two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, the SPLA, to try. A hard task awaits him. While the delegates talk, the war continues, with the SPLA rebel stronghold of Torit under threat from advancing government troops. In spite of this, the Torit faction of the SPLA, led by Colonel John Garang, seems confident they will yield nothing around the negotiating table, as the group's London representative, Colonel (Stephen Barke), told Emily Casriel.

[Begin recording] [(Barke)] The other options left for us now are confederal, or self-determination, or independence for southern Sudan. So we would consider from confederal up to independent, not below that.

[Casriel] But it would appear that the SPLA are under some pressure because the government has had success on the battle field.

[(Barke)] There is no pressure; there can be no pressure because we are not defeated, we are far from being defeated; we are many, many, many years away from defeat. So the government is only enjoying a temporary illusion. They have only won a propaganda war, not a military victory.

[Casriel] So, are you willing to make any concessions at the peace talks in Abuja?

[(Barke)] What type of concessions? We are not going to give in to any blackmail that may be suggested by the government.

[Casriel] If you are not willing to make any concessions at these peace talks, why are you going to Abuja?

[(Barke)] We are going to Abuja in order to put the message to the world that we will not accept Islam and Arab rule in Sudan, because we are not Arabs in the first place; we were born Africans, and we are not muslims, in the first place, we are Christians or pagans.

[Casriel] But the SPLA is also divided; have the Nasr and Torit factions come to a common understanding, come to a common position for these peace talks?

[(Barke)] We have no common proposition because the Nasr faction has had an agreement already with the government in Frankfurt on the 21st of January this year, and it is irrelevant that they should be going to this trot because their agreement is already in safe custody. So it is a matter of implementation and a matter of an announcement to the world. [end recording]

Peace Conference Opens in Nigeria

WA2709124692

For Sudanese and Nigerian reportage on the peace talks taking place in Abuja, Nigeria, among the government delegation and two factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, please see the International Affairs section of the 27 May 1992 Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Kuwait

2 Sentenced To Death for Collaborating With Iraq

LD2305150992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Kuwait, 23 May (KUNA)—The State Security Court today sentenced two people to death convicted of collaboration with the Iraqi forces of occupation during its criminal occupation of Kuwait.

The State Security Court under the chairmanship of Counsellor Salah al-Fahd looked today into the cases against Mubarak Gh.S., Ghalib M.A., Muhsin Sh.J., Muhammad D.J., Ahmad Sh.M., and Sa'd M.A.

The Court sentenced Muhsin Sh.J. and Ghalib M.A. to death. Muhammad D.J. and Ahmad Sh.M. were sentenced to seven years hard labor, whereas Mubarak Gh.S. and Sa'd M.A were acquitted. [names as received]

Yemen

Salih Gives Press Conference on Unity, Borders

JN2405184992 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 92

[Report on "details" of a press conference by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih "at noon today"; place not given—carried within the "News Follow-Ups" program]

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has affirmed that Yemen has always reiterated—since the establishment of the Republic of Yemen—that it is ready to discuss border issues with its neighbors to safeguard the legal and historical rights of all parties. He added: In the past it was difficult to discuss border issues in light of the fact that Yemen was divided into two parts. When unity was achieved, Salih said, the government announced, in its first statement, its readiness to discuss border issues with its neighbors.

The brother president noted that the border talks with Oman have made great and progressive strides, and that only final touches remain before the final agreement settling the border issue between the two countries can be signed.

The president added: With regard to the brothers in Saudi Arabia, we are ready to discuss with them the issue of borders any time they want, in a manner that guarantees the two sides' rights.

This came at the press conference held by brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today. The press conference was attended by brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council; Minister of State Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi; [name indistinct], under secretary of the Information Ministry; representatives of the national press and media; and reporters from Arab and foreign press and news agencies.

Answering a question on his assessment of Yemeni-Gulf relations, the brother president said that Yemen has always affirmed concern about its relations with its brothers in the Gulf states. He added that Yemen has no question marks or reservations on its relations with its neighbors. He noted that Yemen's stand on the Gulf crisis was distorted and that Yemen has no problems with its neighbors. He said that Yemen has always called for understanding and solving issues in a fraternal spirit.

Regarding the existence of Yemeni opposition abroad, the brother president said:

Within the framework of political and party pluralism, we do not believe there is opposition abroad. Democracy guarantees for all political action in the national arena, whether through the press or party rostrums. Those who are abroad are no more than people on the run or sentenced for high treason because they leaked state secrets and plotted against the revolution and unity. We say: He who wants to be part of the opposition should operate inside the country and he is welcome. The arena is open; there is no objection to any party or person who wants to exercise his political right inside the country.

Answering a question on the economic difficulties facing our country and to what extent the government accepts the opposition parties' criticism of the economic situation and their view on solving the economic problems, the brother said:

There are economic problems. We are content to hear that the opposition criticizes the government because of the economic situation, as this embodies real democracy. The opposition has a right to criticize the government because no solutions to the economic situation have been laid down. However, the opposition should realize that we have many economic difficulties. We always speak about this. We face difficulties and are trying to tackle them. This is because there are objective difficulties, including the return of expatriates, scarcity of Yemeni exports, the drought that lasted for more than four years, the state's scarce resources, and the considerable population explosion. We say to the opposition: He who can tackle the economic situation and end its problems is welcome to form the government. We are not covetous of power. Any national element who has the ability is welcome to tackle the economic situation.

Answering a question on his assessment of Yemeni-Egyptian relations and when he will visit Egypt, the brother president said that Yemeni-Egyptian relations are deep and baptized with blood. He said: We highly praise the Egyptian revolution's support for the Yemeni revolution. Today, we do not see any problems among brothers. We are ready to visit Egypt at any appropriate time. Brothers exchange visits without the need for preparations or big difficulties. When an opportunity arises, a visit will be made to Egypt or any other sisterly state.

Commenting on the drying up of Soviet and Gulf aid to Yemen and how this has affected the country's economy,

the brother chairman said no assistance has arrived since the Soviet Union disintegrated. He noted that certain former Soviet republics are now themselves requesting aid from Yemen. Yet, we are ever prepared to cooperate with the Russian Federation and with the other constituents of the former Soviet Union. The minister of state for foreign affairs is now visiting these states, he noted. Regarding aid from the Gulf states, this has been cut off since the Gulf war, he added. However, this may have been a blessing in disguise. This blockade and the cutoff of aid may help the Yemeni people adapt and rely on themselves, and look for ways and means to cope. Whichever nation continues to rely on foreign aid stands no chance of standing on its own feet, he stressed. Admittedly, the aid cutoff has inconvenienced us; yet, we are happy for our people to have had the chance to unlock their innovative potential over the past two years. We have made progress in our oil and gas prospecting efforts. We need to invest time and money before the oil and gas fields are developed and begin to generate income for the development of agriculture, infrastructure, and public services.

The brother chairman added: We are not about to bow to anyone. We call upon our people to tighten their belts and search for their own resources so as to strengthen the national economy.

Commenting on the intifadah and the message the brother president has for the masses in the occupied Arab territories, the brother chairman said: We stand in one trench with our brothers in the Palestinian revolution. We have high regard for the perseverance of the intifadah, and call for its continuation. Keeping the intifadah going is a challenge, since the enemies are betting on snuffing it out. We are certain that the intifadah will survive all bets and that our Palestinian people will ride out all storms and challenges. The intifadah is not the revolution of the Palestinian people alone, but of the entire Arab nation.

Regarding whether or not he will run in the next elections, the brother president said the Constitution is clear about this point. It is up to the parliament to nominate candidates, and this is a given. The brother president expressed his appreciation for the Arab press and all decent writers in the Arab world who have been supportive of Yemeni unity. He stressed that, just as was the case with the Yemeni revolution, there is no going back on the unification of Yemen, regardless of the difficulties ahead. Whatever the obstacles we encounter, we will tackle them with resolve. As the leaders of Yemen, we knew beforehand that our unity was going to face many difficulties and conspiracies. But just as the 23 September and the 14 October revolutions erupted, and just as free, honorable Yemeni nationalists managed to hold out and succeed, the Yemeni people will likewise face challenges and stand up to any action hostile to their unity. Unity was achieved peacefully, but we will offer convoys of martyrs to see that it triumphs and endures.

Regarding our country's position toward Israel's statements and foreign media reports on the emigration of Yemeni Jews, the brother president said: Hostile organs are continuing to distort Yemen's position on this issue. The rights of Yemeni Jews are guaranteed by the Constitution, and they are Yemeni citizens. In their homeland, they have rights and duties, and it is untrue that any Yemeni Jew will emigrate from his homeland—Yemen. But every Yemeni Jew has the right to leave Yemen as a Yemeni citizen for treatment or trade in Europe or any Arab country. Reports that Yemeni Jews will immigrate to the occupied territories are absolutely unfounded.

As for the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, the brother president explained that justification for the blockade no longer existed after the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait. Security Council resolutions are clear. In our opinion, there is no justification for the continuation of the blockade because it hurts Iraq's children, elderly, and women. Are these people guilty? Every nation has the right to choose their rulers by themselves.

Asked about Yemeni parties, which have foreign ties and which receive money from abroad, the brother president said: We view loyalty to any foreign side as high treason. Receiving money by any national party from foreign sides will harm the higher national interests. There is a law defining this issue and the measures that will be taken against any party and person if there is proof that they receive money from abroad.

Asked about Saudi allegations that the Yemeni Kharkhayr area is Saudi land, as well as Yemen's position on that, the brother president said: It is strange that two days ago, the Hunt Company, which is prospecting for oil in our country, received a letter from the Saudi brothers claiming that the Ma'rib and al-Jawf land is Saudi land too, and that [word indistinct] Hadramawt.

However, we believe that this is not more than allegations aimed at activating negotiations, because every one knows where he will put his foot and exactly where his land is.

Asked about investment in our country, the brother president said: There are no obstacles to investment in our country. The government is always seeking ways of promoting investment and creating suitable atmospheres for that.

Asked whether the two ruling parties—the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party—intend to change their representatives in the Presidency, the brother president said: The two ruling parties exist in the government. If we search, we will find out that all political parties and organizations are participating in the government and its institutions. We are drawing close to the end of the transitional period, and there is room in the country for everybody. We call for broad national popular participation. Even if any party wins the majority, I believe that the march will require all the

political forces to build the state during the coming years. We call on all parties and functionaries to actively participate in building the new Yemen.

Asked if there has been any Saudi reply to Yemen's initiative to discuss border issues, the brother president said: We said that the border issue will be discussed when the other side wants to do so. We also officially informed the Saudi side, the brothers, and the friends of our readiness to discuss border issues. However, we have not yet received any reply. In fact, we are not in a hurry and we always extend the hand of peace, dialogue, and negotiations to our brothers in the Arab homeland. The other side may have [word indistinct] but we will sit together one day to solve the problems through the spirit of dialogue. Yemen exists and Saudi Arabia exists, and no one can remove one or the other from the region or the map. We have to accept each other. Dialogue is the best way in the Arab homeland to solve difficult problems imposed by the Arab nation's enemy. We have to be aware of that, because any misunderstanding and conflict in the Arab nation will benefit the other side. The proof is that the Arabs have emerged losers from the Gulf war. All the Arabs lost in this war.

Answering a question regarding the calls being made to hold a national conference to be attended by the two ruling parties—the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party—and other parties, and whether there are any concerns over the unity experiment, brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: You listened to the political speech on 22 May [as heard]. We have clarified the large strides we made on the road to merging the various state institutions. When unity was achieved, we had known that we would encounter many difficulties in merging the institutions and the two systems. Under political pluralism, some issues and incidents are exaggerated. You can make sure that most of the state institutions have been merged, and those which remain to be merged are very few. We are satisfied with our democratic experiment. Democracy is a school where we will continue to learn. Concerning the national conference, it is an old idea. National conferences used to be convened following the revolution until 1975 whenever there was opposition in the national arena, particularly when a split used to occur among national ranks. These national conferences used to meet and issue resolutions—opposition resolutions [words indistinct] interference in the government's affairs by others. However, there is no longer any need to hold a national conference, especially since we resort to constitutional legitimacy—the Presidential Council and the House of Representatives. There is also a Constitution for the country. There is no need to hold a national conference, because the opposition has the right to oppose and to call on the ruling authority to assume its responsibilities. The government also has the right to resort to constitutional institutions. If the Presidential Council cannot pursue the march, it then submits its resignation to the parliament. We, in the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party, do not constitute opposition, but we are rulers. We have opted for democracy and we enjoy constitutional legitimacy. What I understand is that the leadership, represented by the congress and the party, called for a dialogue with all the political organizations during the month of Ramadan. It has reached an agreement on the Covenant of Honor regarding the political approach. There is also an idea to hold a round table set of talks to approve the charter. There is also a committee chaired by brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, to learn about the opinions of the other political organizations and parties.

Regarding unity, it is entrenched and there is no one, anywhere, who can split Yemen. Unity is just like the Yemeni revolution.

Concerning a question on developments in the attack on Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam, and how true the reports are concerning the arrest of the criminals, the brother president said that the security organs have arrested some criminals and that they are in custody pending their trial. The criminals still at large are being pursued by the security organs and will be punished.

The president's meeting with national journalists and the Arab and foreign news media was attended by brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum; [name indistinct], under secretary of the Information Ministry.

Jews Can Go Anywhere 'Except Israel'

NC2405071892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Dr. Yasin al-Nu'man, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, has stated that the Sanaa government deals with Yemeni Jews as Yemeni citizens who have the same rights and duties as other Yemenis, adding that whatever is applied to them also applies to other Yemenis.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, the Yemeni official said that Yemeni Jews have the right, like all other Yemenis, to travel to any country except Israel.

Dr. al-Nu'man was commenting in his statement on recent reports that Israel intends to implement a plan to evacuate a number of Yemeni Jews to Israel.

Complaint Lodged With Saudis on Disputed Territory

JN2405074392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] In Sanaa, a Yemeni official has been cited as saying that the Republic of Yemen has officially lodged a complaint with Saudi Arabia over the allusions made

in the Saudi media to the effect that the Kharkhayr area, north of Hadramawt in central Yemen, is Saudi territory.

When reporting the weather forecast, the said source added, the official Saudi media recently have considered this area to be Saudi. The source affirmed that Kharkhayr, the birthplace of Yemeni Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid, is owned by Yemen.

Sanaa Protest Over Border Oil Areas

NC2405125092 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Sanaa, May 24 (AFP) - A dispute between Saudi Arabia and Yemen over oil-rich border areas appeared to be heating up after a Yemeni official said Sanaa lodged an official protest with Riyadh.

The Yemeni official, who requested anonymity, said Saturday that his country lodged the complaint with Saudi Arabia after Saudi weather reports indicated the Kharkhayr region belonged to Riyadh.

The Canadian oil company Petro-Canada is operating in that region, he said.

"The Kharkhayr region, where Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid comes from, belongs to Yemen," the official said, without mentioning the date of the official protest.

The specialized MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES) reported in April that Riyadh had sent memoranda to British Petroleum, Elf Aquitaine of France and Petro-Canada, asking them to end operations in Saudi territory.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih meanwhile said these companies were operating in Yemeni territory.

A border dispute has opposed Yemen and Saudi Arabia for decades. In 1934, the two countries signed a renewable 20-year agreement, which stipulated that three border provinces belonged to Saudi Arabia.

Sanaa opposes the renewal of the accord, which expires in September, a Yemeni governmental source said.

Minister Praises Saudi Relations on National Day

JN2405142892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and Aden Governor brother Mahmud 'Abdallah [name indistinct] today inaugurated the Public Aden Hospital in the economic and trade capital of Aden, on the occasion of our people's celebrations marking the second anniversary of the Republic of Yemen's National Day.

Koranic verses were recited to open the inauguration ceremony. Public Health Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil delivered a speech in which he expressed the political leadership's thanks to the Saudi Government and the custodian of the two holy mosques for the aid granted to our country in the (?medical) field, especially the new (?hospital) inaugurated today. He praised the existing ties of fraternal cooperation between the two brotherly peoples [words indistinct]. He added that this hospital is one of the fruits of the cooperation existing between our two countries. He also thanked the brother Saudis participating in this celebration. [passage indistinct]

Kurds To Cooperate Despite 'Rigged' Elections

JN2605201492 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 92

[Statement by the joint command of the Kurdistan Socialist Party and the Independent Democratic Party of Kurdistan on 24 May; place not given]

[Excerpts] Honorable masses of Kurdistan; struggling officials, members, and peshmergas of the two parties (Pasoft)-Socialist: On the occasion of the elections for the Kurdistan National Council and for a leader of the Kurdish liberation movement, we congratulate the heroic Kurdish people and hope that the parliament will serve as a step toward a better and stronger parliament, away from all aspects of forgery, violation, pressures, and fears, and removed from all narrow party struggles.

Proceeding from a spirit of self-respect and integrity, and despite all the aforementioned negative aspects which resulted in our votes not reaching the ballot boxes—as many repeated and illegal votes replaced our genuine votes, those of some other parties, and the votes of strugglers—we feel happy that our people now have a National Council.

Although we do not believe in the legitimacy and integrity of the elections, because the agreement concerning the parliament was concluded between only two parties, we emphasize that we are prepared to support any positive and useful parliamentary decision serving the interests of our people. [passage omitted]

We expect that the upcoming elections, scheduled for October 1992, will avoid all the abovementioned shortcomings. We hope those elections will be organized objectively, and that they will not be rigged, as happened with these elections. This can only be achieved by holding a general census of the population; refraining from using ink, repeat voting, changing names, and falsifying ages; allowing citizens to cast their votes in full freedom; increasing the number of ballot boxes and assigning qualified and independent people to supervise them; maintaining confidentiality of voting; and respecting judges and employees supervising the elections. Elections should also be based on constituencies, as we have stressed time and time again.

We feel proud that we were not a reason for foiling the elections, despite all the negative phenomena that accompanied them—phenomena that were mentioned by other parties, too, in different ways. This was a reason why the weight of our party and other parties has not emerged in the elections [passage omitted containing indistinct words].

Turkish Air Attack Kills 5 Iraqi Kurds, Wounds 4

NC2605185992 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Zakho, Iraq, May 26 (AFP)—Turkish aircraft pounded positions inside Iraq on Tuesday, killing five Iraqi Kurds and wounding four, well-informed sources here reported.

The raid targeted the Iraqi-Turkish border region of Kani-Masi, the sources in northern Iraq said, adding that the dead fell in the village of Dire.

Over 100 Kurds Killed in Turkish Raid

NC2605204392 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpts] Ankara, May 26 (AFP)—Turkish fighter-bombers, helicopters and paratroopers launched a large-scale offensive against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq Tuesday, killing more than 100, according to well-informed sources here.

An earlier toll had spoken of 20 Kurdish rebels killed in the operation which began at dawn Tuesday and was continuing Tuesday night. There was no immediate confirmation of the new death toll.

The Turkish operation began after some 600 Kurdish rebels attacked a Turkish border post at Uzumlu, sources said here in the Turkish capital.

Five soldiers, a non-commissioned officer and a reserve officer were killed in the Kurdish attack, which was immediately followed by the counter-offensive described here as the "largest ever undertaken".

Turkish paratroopers jumped in the border area to surround the attackers said to belong to the separatist Kurdish Workers Party. [passage omitted]

Turkish aircraft bombed the Kani-Masi valley and neighbouring hills—which had served as a refuge to Iraqi Kurds following their aborted coup against the Baghdad government in March 1991, for seven hours from early in the morning.

The reported air strikes come a week after Iraqi Kurds held their first independent election for a 105-seat parliament.

'Aziz Presents Paper on Changing World Order

JN2505135692 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 May 92 pp 2, 6

["Text" of research paper entitled "The Current International Situation: Facts and Prospects" presented by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and deputy official in charge of the National Command's

Culture and Information Bureau, to the "second intellectual seminar organized by the National Command's Culture and Information Bureau" in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] Until the late eighties, the so-called world order was based on factors that had emerged in the wake of World War II, as well as on other factors that arose during the fifties, sixties, and seventies, especially in Asia and Africa. The freedom of a large number of African and Asian nations from colonialist control, the emergence of the Nonaligned Movement, and the emergence of a new and important role for Third World oil producing countries are among the most important of these other factors.

This is a general description of the situation that existed prior to 1990.

Within the framework of that situation, opportunities were made available for people seeking political and economic independence, development, and progress in various fields to achieve varying degrees of their objectives. The extent of their success depended, on the one hand, on available intrinsic potential and efficiency and, on the other hand, on the regional and international circumstances that surrounded them.

Within that framework, too, international organizations, such as the United Nations, and especially the General Assembly, as well as regional organizations, especially the Organization of African Unity, the Arab League, and the Nonaligned Movement, provided an amount—albeit limited—of protection against attempts at aggression and political, economic, and military hegemony by imperialist states, especially the United States and the West. These organizations also served as forums through which the newly independent states were able to address their problems and concerns and to achieve some positive results.

Within that framework, many of the countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America benefited from the state of rivalry and hostility that existed between the United States and the Western bloc, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union and its Eastern bloc on the other. Thus, they were able to achieve a certain degree of independence and to obtain economic, military, and technical aid that had not been available before. In certain cases, some Asian, African, and Latin American countries, benefiting from that competition, achieved very important gains.

Under the current circumstances, however, we should not overpraise the past to the extent of deeming it an ideal situation. That situation was very complicated and difficult for the newly independent states. Nevertheless, in general, it was better than the situation that emerged in the wake of the eighties.

In this past situation, the Zionist entity was established in Palestine, and the United States and some Western states supplied it with most of what it needed for protection, expansion, and aggression.

And during this past situation, racist regimes maintained their strength, enjoying practical protection by the world's reactionary powers.

In light of that situation, the economic crisis in the Third World nations became worse; the wide differences between the standards of living in the North and the South increased; the indebtedness of Asian, African, and Latin American countries grew larger; and development came to a halt in many countries.

Under these conditions, the larger part of the surplus of oil funds was plundered by major capitalist states, particularly America and the West.

Under these conditions, several acts of aggression and wars were launched by America and the imperialist states and their agents without there being any military or even an effective political deterrent. Take, for example, the repeated "Israeli" aggression against the Arab nation; the U.S. aggression against Grenada, Libya, and Panama; and the war launched by Britain against Argentina.

Despite the difficult and complex drawbacks and conditions of the previous situation, the current situation is harder and more difficult for all the Third World nations, especially the Arab nation.

What are the most important aspects of the current situation?

Emerging after World War II as the strongest nation, the most advanced technologically, and the strongest economically (if we exclude certain fields where the United States regressed when compared to other capitalist states, especially Japan and Germany), the United States has become the sole superpower in the world. There is no longer another superpower to rival or to balance the power of the United States politically or militarily.

It is true that, in light of the previous situation, the United States remained the leader of the Western nations by heading NATO during the period that followed World War II, as well as other political and military groupings in other parts of the world. This leadership, however, was challenged and violated under the previous situation if we consider that certain member states of the Western alliance itself demonstrated some form of independence from the United States. This phenomenon appeared particularly in circumstances like the Vietnam war and the Middle East conflicts. In the current situation, however, this leadership is being practiced in a stronger way, and no Western state has so far managed to seriously challenge any decision made by the United States politically, militarily, or economically.

Among the most serious developments in the current situation is the U.S. control over the UN Security Council and the United Nations.

Theoretically, this organization's charter has given it numerous tasks and authorities. However, these tasks and authorities have remained ineffective or restrained thanks to the balance existing in the past. Neither the United States, the Soviet Union, nor any other big power was able to use the UN Security Council or the UN departments to achieve unilateral purposes because of the veto right that permanent UN Security Council member states could use to abort attempts to do so by their adversaries. Therefore, most resolutions that were passed by this organization, especially the Security Council, enjoyed a certain degree of balance, taking into consideration the interests and concerns of relevant parties.

When the past balance was disrupted, however, the United States and its Western allies, especially Britain and France, became able to peddle their political wishes through UN Security Council resolutions and through UN channels and departments without objection by others (Russia and China). Moreover, Russia became a partner to such resolutions. As for China, the best it can do is to abstain from voting.

The gravity of this development lies in the fact that imperialist U.S. and Western policies, which, most of the time, used to express themselves through unilateral and exposed means—thus lacking the cover of international legitimacy—can now obtain a formal UN legitimacy, although this legitimacy is false at heart. This is what happened against Iraq in particular via the resolutions that the United States peddled through the UN Security Council.

This serious development has enabled the United States and its Western allies to extort the world in a manner that was not possible in the past. It also has made struggle against imperialist U.S. and Western policies much more difficult and complicated than it was in the past.

The economic crisis of Third World countries has exacerbated. These countries are no longer able to utilize international forums as they did in the past in order to achieve some results in their favor—even partially. In addition, these states can no longer benefit from competition between two blocs or from that among the states of the Western bloc itself. Doors have been locked to them. They currently find nothing but a tyrannical and greedy capitalist, imperialist world that pursues a variety of means to avenge its political, economic, and military defeats in the face of revolutions and national liberation movements. This world also seeks to revive the old colonialism through new guises and methods.

The important question here is: Is this a final and permanent situation, and what are the realistic possibilities for the next stage?

Theoreticians and propagandists of U.S. imperialism, along with U.S. agent politicians, rulers, and writers in some countries, are propagating the view that the current age is the American age. They say that the United States has triumphed over socialism and communism and has removed its major rival on the globe, thus becoming the master of the entire world politically, militarily, and economically. They argue that this is a permanent and final situation.

Such people advocate the idea that this situation is an established fact and an inescapable reality. In the Arab world, the Egyptian regime and its media organs are the chief proponents of this view. Other rulers, politicians, and writers in other Arab countries, especially in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, share the same view.

Those who describe the current situation in the above manner are actually not giving an objective description. They are deliberately seeking to propagate such a description to ensure an effortless, comprehensive U.S. hegemony by paralyzing the popular will of resistance to this hegemony and depicting resistance as though it were a vain effort.

But how can we separate objective facts in the current international situation from the claims of the theoreticians of U.S. imperialism and its agents in the world in general, and in the Arab homeland in particular?

We have noted the most salient characteristics of the current international situation. There is no doubt that the United States is presently the chief power. There are, however, other facts.

First: One of the most important facts about the current international situation and the way it differs from the previous situation emerging after World War II is that this new international situation has arisen within a very short period and in a way that surprised the entire world, including the United States itself. It is true that the capitalist camp, led by the United States, fought a political, ideological, economic, propagandistic, and sometimes military war against the Soviet Union and its camp for decades in order to weaken and to shake this camp, to destroy the communist regime, and to recapture the gains the Soviet Union had achieved in Europe and the world.

The United States and its allies, however, were expecting to achieve only a few results. Achieving all of these objectives in an absolute manner was an illusion. But what actually happened was that the socialist system in Eastern Europe collapsed over two years. The same thing happened to the communist system in the Soviet Union. This situation is drastically different from the one that emerged in the wake of World War II, which took place between 1939 and 1945. The collapse of the Nazi system was expected after the retreat of the German military march and Germany's retreat on all battlefronts with the Allies. Before the end of the war, the Allied commanders—especially the United States, the Soviet Union, and Britain—discussed the future of the world order following the defeat of Germany at conferences held in Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam. They established the United Nations, laid its foundations, and agreed on a state of balance within the Security Council and on the

right to veto. As for the situation that emerged after 1990, it surprised everyone. The United States, as well as other influential countries, have not discussed this situation thoroughly in order to come to some agreement on its foundations. Given the successive, fast-paced developments, countries have not had a chance to catch their breath. They now are still trying to catch up with these developments and to comprehend their results.

Second: The United States, the United Kingdom, and other Western countries describe the current international state of affairs as a new world order. Irrespective of the moral or ethical essence of this alleged order, the facts and realities confirm that this new state of affairs, which emerged only a few years ago—emerged suddenly as we have said before—in the international arena, is not an order in the real sense of the word. An order implies consistency, stability, explicit bases and objectives, and the existence of a decisive power that guarantees its stability.

Those who closely observe what is taking place in the international arena will find that the state of affairs in many parts of the world is unstable and fluid. Sometimes, this state of affairs suddenly deteriorates and disintegrates in an unrestrained manner. It is true that the United States and its Western allies now assume a role that has some impact on this state of affairs, but, most of the time, the U.S. and the Western role falls short from that of a decisive power that controls and directs this change, deterioration, and disintegration toward the results it wants.

What is taking place in Yugoslavia, and in many other parts of the world, confirms that the role assumed by local forces and circumstances toward disintegration and deterioration has more ascendancy than the role the United States and its Western allies play to control the situation and channel it to serve their interests. The instances of deterioration and disintegration have spread throughout the world and this has made it virtually impossible for the United States and its Western allies to control and exploit them to serve their interests.

The international arena is expected to witness further deteriorations, disintegrations, and conflicts on local levels and this reality undermines from its very foundations the concept of the new world order that is being advertised. This concept cannot be backed by the ability of the United States and its Western allies to tackle specific cases in the manner they believe and direct them to serve their interests, as was the case with the aggression against Iraq and the blockade against Libya. The ability to do so does not necessarily mean a comprehensive and stable order. It also does not imply that the frequent recurrence of such a thing is possible. It goes without saying that, with these two examples, the United States sought to scare others so that they may give in without it being compelled to directly intervene, an intervention for which it would have to exert much political and military efforts and which would cost it dearly on the financial level. But, it is very difficult to spread a state of fear throughout the world for a long period of time, particularly among parties and forces which cannot constitute selected targets for a direct military assault. Such is the case with respect to Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Somalia, and the many other examples of deterioration, disintegration, and conflicts on local levels, which are spreading like wildfire in many parts of the world today.

Third: Dealing with the current world circumstances, we should recall the situation that existed before and during World War II. At that time, two blocs were set up. The nature of the two blocs differed from the two blocs that emerged after the war. The conflict during World War II started among the major capitalist states themselves: Britain, France, and later the United States on the one hand, and Germany, Japan, and Italy on the other. The Soviet Union tried to avoid that conflict through a treaty with Germany. However, Germany forced the Soviet Union into the conflict.

Now, after the collapse of the communist system in Russia and Eastern Europe, and the disappearance of its political, economic, and ideological threat to Western capitalism inside capitalist states themselves, and in Europe and the world, and after the Russian nuclear and conventional military power turned from a rival force and threat to the West into a force with currently no specific objectives, there are real prospects—not hypotheses or wishes—for increased disagreement and conflict among capitalist states. These prospects had limited seeds and manifestations in the post World War II era. Although disagreement and conflict are still not visible as a hot phenomenon, and although the alliance between the United States and its Western allies, especially Britain and France, is still valid and was expressed vigorously in the aggression against Iraq and in the stand against Libya, the main reason for this has not been a comprehensive and firm understanding between the United States and its Western allies on how to organize and distribute interests and benefits in a satisfactory manner among all members of the Western capitalist alliance. The basic reason is the state of surprise in the midst of which the major capitalist states found themselves after the overwhelming turn of events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The United States exploited these events in a despotic manner to achieve very quick results.

In addition, the hot effects of the U.S. aggression against Iraq, and the unstable situation in Russia and the former Soviet republics, are currently pressing all capitalist states into yielding to the United States to avoid its evil and spare themselves any surprises and serious uncalculated possibilities.

Therefore, these states have not yet managed to specify their interests, strategies, and future roles in light of the new and surprising situation. However, these states cannot remain mere satellites of the United States. Definitely, they will gradually pursue direct or indirect, hot or cool means to free themselves of U.S. hegemony

and formulate their own objectives and policies. Such a process has not yet started on a large scale and has not surfaced on the international scene as a vigorous and actual political phenomenon. However, it can currently be seen in particular in the disagreement over economic and environmental issues between the United States, on the one hand, and Japan and Western Europe on the other.

Besides these basic facts about the current international situation, there is a major question that must be looked into in depth and seriously followed up. The question is: Can the United States actually remain the master of the world militarily, politically, and economically? Can it impose its will on the entire world as the sole superpower?

Answering this question requires studying factors of weakness and strength in America.

1. The Military Factor: America is now the chief military power in the world. If we compare U.S. military power with any other military power, we will see the huge differences between the two, especially after the decline of Soviet military power and the possibility of a further decline in Russian military power. But if we take the world as a whole, we will find that many countries actually possess very formidable military capabilities, including nuclear weapons. Although this situation is not realized at present on a global level, the way the situation was when the Soviet Union balanced the power of the United States, the fact certainly remains that these countries exist within a regional framework, actually in several regions of the world. This fact limits comprehensive U.S. military control of the world and allows these states to maintain their power and use it either now or in the future to achieve results in their interest, without the necessary approval of the United States. The United States cannot intervene militarily in every case, as colonialist empires did before the 20th century, to suppress any case of rebellion or to impose complete hegemony over this or that country or region.

The example of the aggression against Iraq is unlikely to be repeated, as propagated by proponents of the U.S. theory when they speak about the new world order. For the factors that enabled the United States to mobilize a massive military campaign against Iraq cannot be available in every instance, given that in addition to the huge political, diplomatic, and propagandistic effort made by the United States to pave the way for the aggression, the United States alone could not have afforded the expense of a military campaign similar to the one launched against Iraq. But of course Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states first, and Japan and Germany second, financed that particular campaign. Also, the providing of land for the United States by Saudi Arabia, the shaykhs of the Gulf, and Turkey, is a case that might not happen elsewhere. In addition, the aggression against Iraq was linked to U.S. and Western oil interests that are of immense financial and economic value to the United States and its Western allies. That is why the huge political, military, and propagandistic investment in the campaign was compatible with the financial and economic value of the objective of controlling oil from the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf.

Not all areas of the world, however, are rich in resources. Therefore, the United States will not be able to conduct large military campaigns against any country that escapes its control for this simple financial and economic reason.

For all these reasons, the United States will resort to the method of blackmail and intimidation to obtain political and economic results without the need to always resort to military power to attain such results, as it has done with Iraq.

If this method of blackmail and intimidation is successful for some time, it cannot continue to be effective forever because the parties concerned will come to know the elements of strength and weakness within the U.S. body under the canopy of the new world order, and will take them into account.

2. The Economic Factor: With respect to the economic factor, there is the following important question: Can the U.S. economy sustain the expenses to be incurred by the continued U.S. need to maintain the highest level of military preparedness that gives it the ability to control the world and exercise the role of a policeman who protects the order it wants to impose on the world?

One of the basic facts about military power in our age is that it is not enough to acquire military power through sizable expenditures over a specific period of time. It is important to maintain spending on this military power to prevent it from deteriorating or being worn out. Cutting down on military expenditures does not only affect its growth but also diminishes its strength. From this premise, if the United States wishes to maintain the present level of its military power but without any growth, in light of the absence of the arms race that used to exist between the United States and the former USSR, it will have to continue spending lavishly on this power to maintain it at its present level, which exceeds that of any other military power in the world.

We should also keep in mind that the huge military spending was one of the main factors which brought about the USSR's downfall. The arms race with the United States had forced the USSR to spend huge sums of money that exceeded its actual economic potentials. This led to the impoverishment of its people and the disintegration of the economic infrastructure which the USSR was unable to modernize. These phenomena, which once plagued the USSR, now plague the United States. It is true that, as of yet, there is no acute crisis in this respect similar to what took place in the USSR. But the crisis is there and there is no doubt about it. The crisis existed in the USSR since the early 1970's. However, the USSR command did not tackle it and continued with its policy of huge military spending to maintain the USSR's status as a superpower. When

Gorbachev assumed power, he tried at the beginning to gradually deal with the problem. However, no sooner had he removed the lid than the crisis sprang out like a giant who can no longer be managed or mastered.

The situation in the United States now is similar—in certain aspects—to the situation that prevailed in the Soviet Union in the 1970's, but in a uniquely American way. America today is suffering from a huge deficit in its internal budget; no U.S. Administration has been able to control this deficit. So far, there is no evidence that it will be possible to control this deficit in the near future. America also suffers from a big deficit in its foreign trade balance. Although the U.S. economy is a giant economy by all measures, one of the most serious economic facts in it, however, is that America's purchases from abroad are more than its sales. This fact is continuous, and no American administration has so far been able to control or curb it. There is no evidence that this deficit can be controlled.

These two serious facts—the internal debt and external deficit—constitute the most serious internal threats to America's military power and superior political position. The world did not witness an empire that was capable of imposing its military and political hegemony without a strong and stable economy. It is very important to note that these two facts exist despite America's achievement, represented by its complete hegemony over oil in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, and despite all the money it has plundered from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf shaykhdoms.

How can America tackle this serious deficit?

The only way to tackle the internal budget deficit is to greatly reduce military spending. If America does this, it will not remain the military and political master of the world. The only way to tackle the external deficit is to largely curb its purchases from abroad. If it does this, it will torpedo one of the pillars of capitalism—that is, the freedom of trade. Practically, the nature of the American political system does not permit such radical measures.

No American president dares to take decisive steps such as performing comprehensive surgery on the U.S. economy. If such a president appears, his party, the Congress, and the many centers of power—particularly the military industrial complex which wields great influence in America—will prevent him from doing so. Such a president cannot remain in power for more than four years, which is not enough time to make any radical changes in the economy. Therefore, the two major deficiencies in the American economic structure will continue and exacerbate. America does not need centuries or decades to face the moment of truth, as happened with old empires that collapsed over many centuries. The modern age is an age of speed. This is a two-edged sword. As the achievements are accomplished swiftly, disasters, also, take place swiftly.

3. The Domestic Political Factor: Old colonialist states, such as Britain, France, and others, built an immense military power to ensure their control over their colonies and to guarantee for themselves leading roles on the world scene.

It is obvious that these states believed in spending huge amounts on the building of a military power to ensure an influential political role and an indisputably feasible economic investment. The wealth these states made from their pursuit of colonialist policies did not benefit just the influential classes in society. Indeed, this wealth was also tangibly reflected in the lot of the working classes and that of the lower strata within the middle classes. This provided the colonialist policies of the ruling regimes within these states with a strong and constant support.

In the second half of the 20th century, however, signs of weakness began to appear in the British, French, Portuguese, and Dutch empires, some of which were a few centuries old. The military power of Britain and France was cut down to size, whereas Portugal and the Netherlands lost their roles as influential countries.

This substantial change in the international situation in the second half of the 20th century cannot be attributed solely to the emergence of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc as a rival to these colonialist states nor can it be attributed to the work of national liberation movements. As a matter of fact, these were some of the factors which caused this change. However, one of the most important factors is that the role of the colonialist states, which were powerful both militarily and politically, began to create intolerable economic burdens for these states. That is, investment in the military and political roles, which had been profitable in the past, no longer was feasible. The continuation of this role had created severe economic and social problems. This in turn dictated that the ruling establishments in Britain and France rearrange their priorities to ensure domestic stability and harmony. This resulted in the abandonment of some colonies and the reconsideration of colonialist policies and methods. Consequently, the colonialist states became content with a weaker military and political role.

The United States, which emerged in the 20th century, particularly in the aftermath of World War II, as the greatest imperialist power, witnessed an immense economic prosperity prior to and after this war. Before the war, the United States was a very rich country, and during the post-war period it became the wealthiest nation. Despite the fact that the isolationist trend in the United States had remained and had continued to manifest itself in varying degrees before and after World War II, the ruling establishment in the country—particularly the lobbies associated with military industries—managed to prove within a few decades after the end of the war that the growth of U.S. military power and the expansion of the U.S. political role had produced immense economic gains that benefited the entire American society.

These gains, however, which continued for several decades, are no longer guaranteed. All signs indicate that the living standard of the U.S. citizen is deteriorating to a point where the ruling establishment cannot conceal it. Health, educational, and social welfare services also are declining in the United States. The United States is currently facing serious problems due to its inability to secure the necessary funds to modernize its infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and railroads built during past stages of prosperity. This is all in addition to the accumulating environmental problems.

The recent Los Angeles incidents not only stir up the issue of racial discrimination in America—because America, since the time blacks were brought to it as slaves to work on the farms of whites, has been a racist society—but they also reflect, in a very dramatic manner, the state of economic frustration and despair from which an increasing number of American citizens are suffering. Although the blacks and other minorities in America are the most affected by this situation, it is no longer confined to them. Unemployment and declining living standards are now affecting the white Anglo-Saxon society and people in the middle class.

The present administration under Bush is still trying to delude the American people by claiming that the current U.S. foreign policy, including all its military, political, and economic elements, will bring economic gains to America. But the success of this disinformation process is limited.

America is now facing what France and Britain faced in the fifties in terms of severe economic and social crises resulting from the maintenance of a military and political role, the cost of which the U.S. economy cannot tolerate.

During the fifties and sixties, we witnessed a strong internal current in Britain and France that pushed for the reduction and limitation of the foreign military and political role to a level that could be tolerated by the country's economic ability and its society. So, too, the United States is now witnessing, particularly during the election campaign, a growing popular current that is discontented with the U.S. foreign policy. Calls are escalating with regard to the need for America to take care of its domestic affairs and to cut the expenditures of the superpower in order to secure funds to tackle the unemployment, health, educational, social welfare, and environmental problems. America will find itself confronted with two choices: Either to make a decision to limit its foreign role, or to continue with this very costly role, including the subsequent exacerbation of economic and social problems and the ensuing instability, which would eventually curb the foreign role.

4. The Foreign Policy Factor: Just as there are important internal factors that will limit the U.S. role throughout the world, there are also a number of external factors that will lead to the same result.

A. The political, diplomatic, and information capabilities of the United States, as well as its experience in foreign policy, have been established over several decades on the basis of the balance of power that prevailed prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the communist camp in Eastern Europe.

The foreign policy of the United States often has been based on a white-or-black concept, and the U.S. political institution has not proved to be deeply aware of international affairs. Although American researchers, writers, and experts on world affairs outnumber those of any other country, this big army lacks a deep understanding of the international situation. It also lacks direct human communication with these different and complicated situations, contrary to the British and French experience in the affairs of their former colonies. The British and the French ruled many countries in Asia and Africa for several centuries. They lived in these countries, gained a great deal of experience in their affairs and situations, and understood many facts and information about them. The United States appeared on the international stage in the 20th century as an imperialist power with no colonialist experience. This imperialist state, which achieved a very high level of power and political influence within a very short time, bases its efforts to understand the world on academic research, computers, and satellites rather than on the human factor and experience, which usually accumulates over several centuries.

The United States, therefore, previously made many mistakes in dealing with various international situations. Many of these mistakes amounted to foolishness and disaster. The United States could not reasonably understand many situations in the world without the experience of its Western allies, especially Britain. This occurred when the world was divided into two camps and when U.S. concerns and responsibilities were relatively limited.

Now that the entire world has suddenly been opened to the United States, which is obliged to take an interest in everything as part of its role as the only superpower in the world, it is stunned by the huge and complicated political, social, economic, religious, and cultural realities. The world has a cultural, religious, and political age of several thousand years, while the United States only has the experience of two centuries or more. As a principal superpower, the United States had only 45 years of experience; as the sole superpower, it has the experience of only two or three years.

This political and intellectual U.S. failure is no less dangerous than the economic failure. America is facing foreign political problems that are beyond its ability to analyze, to understand, to comprehend, and, consequently, to deal with in a way that will achieve stable and guaranteed objectives for it.

Among the results ensuing from this situation is a loss of cohesion in the U.S. foreign policy. The double standards, which characterize the current U.S. policy, are not

only the result of the U.S. Administration's hypocrisy; they are also the result of the lack of clear vision about the international situation and the lack of a clear understanding of it. We can now find, in more than one case, flagrant contradictions within the U.S. foreign policy. We can see that it is hostile to a certain force in this country or in that region. At the same time, we see that it has an alliance with a similar force in another country or in another region. The reason for this, as we have said, is not only the corruptness of the moral basis of the U.S. foreign policy, but also the loss of cohesion in this policy.

B. In confronting the communist system in the USSR and East Europe, the U.S. foreign policy was to a large extent based on promises and on introducing the American example as being the best one to follow in life. America used to promise the people of East Europe and the people in other countries ruled by communist regimes or by other pro-USSR regimes aid and a better life politically and economically if they got rid of the communist system, adopted capitalism, and accepted the leading U.S. role. It also used to present itself as the savior, the helper, and the example.

America has undoubtedly obtained a decisive success through the collapse of the communist system in East Europe and in the USSR itself, as well as via the collapse and change of several regimes that used to be loyal to the USSR or affiliated with it in one way or another. The new governments in these countries have quickly accepted the U.S. calls, have adopted the capitalist system for their economy and the liberal system for their politics, and have accepted the U.S. leading role and example. Despite the short time which has passed since this essential change took place in the international arena, the observer who watches events in the aforementioned countries can notice an increasingly widespread disillusionment with the U.S. promises and example. The governments of these countries, which opted for loyalty to America, are now panting after U.S. aid, which they do not receive or, sometimes, which they receive in very scarce amounts that do not resolve any of their problems.

After the former communist model of development was torn apart, and after people in the former communist states began to open their eyes to the features of the U.S. model of development, these people began to find out almost daily that the U.S. model is not as ideal and bright as was depicted by the U.S. propaganda machine. The events in Los Angeles were largely instrumental in amplifying these peoples' feelings of disappointment with the so-called U.S. model of development. The current election campaign, which is openly displaying economic and social crises and problems, has enhanced these feelings. It is paradoxical and ironic that the negative aspects of this U.S. model are not being exposed by thinkers, writers, and media hostile to the United States. Indeed, they are being exposed by the U.S. media, which turned into a gigantic monster that was successfully used by the United States to achieve its imperialist objectives on a large scale. These same media sources, knowingly or unknowingly, have become the prime tool to expose the U.S. model and the crises and maladies plaguing U.S. society, as well as the contradictions inherent in U.S. foreign policy.

The important question that must be asked here is the following: If such was the extent of the disappointment with and frustration over the role of the United States—which had earlier been depicted as a savior, a source of aid, and a model to be emulated—after only two or three years since the United States became extremely powerful and secured this huge military, political, and media hegemony over the world, what point can this disappointment and frustration reach over the next few years? History has not seen any empire whose weaknesses and maladies emerged so quickly, even though this empire reached the pinnacle.

C. While talking about the features of the current global situation, we said that the most forbidding development of this situation is the domination by the United States over the Security Council and the United Nations—a matter which enabled it to see its wishes endorsed and approved by the two aforementioned institutions, particularly the Security Council. This also provided the United States with a false sense of legitimacy which it used to blackmail the world.

Nevertheless, there are no guarantees that this accomplishment, which was achieved by U.S. policy and which the United States is endeavoring to safeguard by all possible means of terrorism, pressure, and blackmail, will remain intact in the long run. For this accomplishment to remain intact, the United States must foster the interests of the remaining four members of the Security Council with the right to veto any resolutions. The United States ensured the endorsement of the anti-Iraq resolutions by the former Soviet Union, and by Russia at present, by paying huge bribes. For it to ensure the former Soviet Union's endorsement of Resolution 678, the United States ordered Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states to pay the Gorbachev government $7 billion, $4 billion of which was paid three days before the aforementioned resolution was brought to a vote, as I explained when I spoke about this phase on the "File" program [on Baghdad television]. And right now, Russia is lending support for the U.S. positions on Iraq and Libya at the Security Council, in exchange for the economic aid it has recently received from the United States and the other six largest industrialized nations.

And for it to ensure China's endorsement of the resolutions against Iraq and Libya, the United States mitigated its propaganda campaign against China and agreed to revive some of the trade privileges the latter had obtained in the past. Besides, the United States had, and still has to nurture British and French interests to ensure that Britain and France cooperate with it on the Security Council.

The aforementioned facts show that the influence the United States has wielded over the Security Council was

highly exorbitant. It was the first time in the history of mankind that an influential superpower found itself compelled to pay these huge bribes, directly and indirectly, just to ensure that its political decisions were endorsed.

In addition to its exorbitant financial and economic costs, the ploy of using the Security Council and the United Nations has shown itself to be a complex one, requiring numerous consultations, maneuvers, and complex formulas to ensure that certain political objectives are endorsed.

The question that must be asked here is the following: How long will the United States be able to maintain this influence over the Security Council and the United Nations, given the factors we have already mentioned; namely, the U.S. economic crisis, the failure of U.S. foreign policy, and the disappointment with the U.S. model of progress and also with U.S. aid on the part of the countries which have in recent years expressed allegiance to the United States? We also should take into account the decrease in surplus oil revenues in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf shaykhdoms as well as the fact that the United States needs these funds to remedy some aspects of the U.S. budget deficit. Hence, we can safely say that the United States is faced with two options. The first option is for it to continue to use the Security Council and the United Nations at exorbitant economic and political costs, whereas the other option is for it to impose its political decisions single-handedly, as it did previously in its aggressions against Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and Libya. And then, it would lose the frail cover of international legitimacy it has been using over the past two years.

Having reviewed the current global situation and the U.S. strengths and weaknesses, how then are we to envisage the world in coming years? What is the Arab nation's position in this new world?

This occasion does not allow for a lengthy and detailed explanation of the way we envisage the world during the forthcoming phase. However, I will attempt to briefly explain my views regarding the most likely eventualities, in the hope that another opportunity will allow me to explain such eventualities more thoroughly and comprehensively.

The world, particularly our world which was shaped after World War II, has survived on the principle of balance. This principle no longer exists. We now see only one power dominating the world. This power suffers from very serious illnesses and problems, and is marked by political incompetence which means, as we have already deduced, that it will fail to impose on the world an order in the true sense of the word. The expected consequence of this fact is the spread of instability, local crises, and conflicts across the world, and this consequence has now begun to emerge on a wide scale. In a world as unstable as the one that exists now and as the one that is expected in the future, one cannot expect economic growth around the world as a whole, not even in the advanced capitalist countries. As for Russia, the Eastern European states, Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the coming years will see further economic crises and social, political, and security unrest caused by such crises.

In my opinion, I do not expect the emergence of centers of power in the coming few years to restore the balance that existed before the collapse of the Soviet Union and its bloc. However, with the gradual retreat of the current U.S. role, the big and major powers in the East and West will, in general, remain candidates to participate in the shaping of an international scene that is different from the one that exists now.

I am briefly presenting these expectations. At first sight, it appears that the current world situation and its prospect are a source for pessimism. I warn against using the words "pessimism" or "optimism." It is unrealistic to spread optimism. Equally, it would not be objective to fall into pessimism. We have to deal with this situation and its prospects in a realistic manner, but without giving up [hope]. Here comes the talk about the Arab nation.

The Arab nation suffers most from the evils of the new world situation, which began with the aggression against Iraq, the attack against its military power, and the obstruction of its program to achieve industrial and scientific progress. Within the context of this situation, an evil and programmed process to liquidate the Palestine question is taking place and Libya is being blockaded and threatened.

Because of the oil, and prompted by international Zionism, the United States has chosen the Arab world to be the first place where it wants to exercise its imperialist role under the current world situation to the maximum. It is now joined in that role by its Western allies, particularly Britain and France.

From an objective point of view and not only to defend principles, it is wrong to draw conclusions that frustrate aspirations and accept what imperialist U.S. propaganda and what the Egyptian regime propagates, especially about that which concerns the American age and the inevitability of giving in to it, and that the goals of independence, unity, development, and progress have become impossible to attain. Had the so-called American age contained the factors of permanence and constancy that it now enjoys, it would have been possible to draw conclusions that the Arab homeland will remain in a dark tunnel for a long time. But, the facts we have objectively reviewed show that this so-called age does not contain these factors and that, on the contrary, it contains many factors of weakness and disintegration. Therefore, if the Arab forces which believe in the goals of independence, unity, development, and progress maintain their present positions, even if they are weak positions and face difficult circumstances, any dwindling in the U.S. power which has reached the climax and cannot go further means that the Arabs parties have progressed

in relative terms. This is an objective assessment. The United States has reached the apogee of its imperialist arrogance. It can maintain such a position for some time. In spite of this, one can find even under these circumstances that there are objective factors that enable influential forces, who believe in the pan-Arab objectives we have mentioned, to stand fast. Therefore, steadfastness is what is needed. The most serious threat the Arab nation now faces is the imperialist and Zionist power devoted to being hostile to this nation. This power has been used to the maximum limit and it attained the results it sought. The danger lies in the Arab nation's accepting defeat and thus offering imperialism and Zionism with additional gains they failed to achieve in the all-out aggression they launched and which they continue to launch.

This is the course by which the Arab nation and the forces which believe in pan-Arab objectives should forcefully abide by now and in the future. As for discussing the details of options under the canopy of the current circumstances and in the future, this merits being dealt with separately. Thank you.

Saudis Blamed for 'Failure' of OPEC Meetings

JN2605164192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has held the Saudi regime responsible for the failure to reach satisfactory results regarding oil prices and an overall output ceiling for OPEC. In a statement to INA upon his return from Vienna, where he participated in the eighth meeting of the OPEC ministerial monitoring committee on 20 May and the 91st meeting of the OPEC ministerial conference on 21-22 May, the minister said that over the past two years, this regime has worked to flood the world oil market, thus leading to a drop of over $4 per barrel of oil since the beginning of this year, in comparison with the minimum price of $21 per barrel that had been agreed upon last July.

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti affirmed that the Saudi regime's policy serves U.S. economic interests at the expense of the interests of OPEC and non-OPEC developing oil exporting nations. He explained that the Iraqi delegation adopted a firm stance on the ministerial conference's decision on output ceilings that had been agreed upon last February, noting that this decision had been dictated to the conference by the Saudi regime through extortion and (?intimidation).

3 Out Of 4 Mina' al-Bakr Platforms Repaired

JN2705083492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 27 May 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 May (INA)—Fa'iz 'Abdallah Shahin, under secretary of the Oil Ministry, has declared that Iraqi technical and oil cadres have repaired three out of the four platforms of the floating Mina' al-Bakr terminal, which thus has become ready to supply oil tankers with crude prepared for exportation.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, Shahin said that 120 engineers and technicians are making exceptional efforts and great sacrifices amid the harshest natural conditions to complete the repair of the fourth platform of this gigantic terminal during the immortal month of July.

He added that with the repair and reconstruction of the oil pipeline network, power and communications systems, and loading arms having been completed, this terminal now has the capacity to load tankers with crude at a rate of 800,000 barrels per day, which can rise to 1 million barrels with the completion of the fourth platform. [passage omitted]

Regime Sends 'Hired Saboteurs' to Gulf Nations

NC2205163292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] In attempting to implement its criminal schemes to spread terrorism in Iraq and abroad, the Iraqi regime, enemy of the people and mankind, recently sent a number of hired saboteurs to the Gulf countries, particularly Kuwait. The Saddam regime provided its agents with forged Iranian papers and travel documents in an effort to provoke sedition and conflict throughout the region and to keep the U.S. military in the Middle East and Islamic countries. The regime has trained terrorist groups to destabilize the Islamic Republic of Iran to achieve its satanic purposes.

Rioting Reaches 'Unprecedented' Level of Violence

110 Demonstrators Arrested

TA2705050992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 May 92

[Report by Le'a Zinder]

[Text] The rioting in Bat Yam, following the murder of Helena Rapp, raged once again last night and reached the level of violence that is unprecedented in Israeli public reactions to terrorist attacks. Until 0300 this morning, thousands of Bat Yam residents rampaged. They damaged the car of Mayor Ehud Qinamon and hurled bottles, eggs, and stones at police, chanting death to the Arabs and police state.

The rioters accused police of arresting Israelis instead of Arab terrorists. Hundreds of police reinforcements closed off streets to traffic and appealed vainly to the demonstrators to leave. Four people were injured, two of them were policemen; 110 rioters were arrested and brought to the Bat Yam police station.

Tel Aviv Police chief, Commander Yig'al Marcus, said for two days, police had exercised maximum restraint, and it tried to get Bat Yam's elected officials to understand that the rioting was doing damage to the city and to the memory of the murdered girl. Marcus added the disturbances were preventing police from doing their job of going after criminals. He said a hard core of delinquents and inciters are responsible for the unrest in Bat Yam. From tonight, said Marcus, he would bring in even more reinforcements of police and border guards and would take tough action against the rioters.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 27 May carries an unattributed report on page A-1 that says that 10 civilians were injured in the riots. The report also cites a "police officer" who said that "Kakh activists were seen circulating among the rioters." The same officer added: "It seems the demonstrations erupted in several places in the city simultaneously and were orchestrated in advance; there was nothing spontaneous about them."]

Justice Minister Urges Restraint

TA2605192492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor today called on the Israeli public to immediately stop the call death to the Arabs which, according to him is reminiscent of terrible voices of the past. Speaking to Shlomo Arad, our legal affairs correspondent, the justice minister said that restraint must be exercised precisely in times of grief and rage, and the security forces must be allowed to bring the wrongdoers to trial. Every man has a right to self-defense, Minister Meridor said, but no one has a right to punish others, he stressed.

Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu also condemned those who attack innocent Arabs but praised those who charge at murderers at the time of the crime. He urged that more civilians be given weapons for self-defense.

2 Gaza Homes Sealed; Nazareth Man Beaten

TA2605052792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 May 92

[Report by Dani Gur-Arye]

[Text] The widespread demonstrations in the Gaza Strip yesterday were touched off by the clash on Sunday in which three Palestinians and an Israeli policeman were killed. The al-Mughazi and al-Nusayrat refugee camps are under curfew at this hour, as are the Sabra and al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhoods in Gaza City. Military sources said soldiers opened fire to disperse demonstrators, injuring nine. The Army said the nine were taken to hospital and later released. Arab sources said the number was closer to 30. One report says a 15-year-old boy from Khan Yunus is in critical condition, with head wounds.

Masked men abducted and later killed a Palestinian in Gaza last night. Arab sources say Na'im Abu-Sa'irah collaborated with Israeli authorities. The incident comes just one day after some 3,000 Palestinians demonstrated in the Gaza Strip against collaborator killings, and after a dramatic plea by chief Palestinian negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to halt the murders.

Soldiers sealed two homes last night in the Gaza Strip. The Army said one of the homes was used as a hideout by suspects killed in Sunday's clash. The other is the home of Fu'ad ('Umarun), the suspect in Sunday's Bat Yam stabbing.

Residents of Bat Yam demonstrated until late last night over the murder. Hundreds marched through the city, chanting death to terrorists and death to Arabs. Rioters set two store rooms on fire near the Holon cemetery where Helena Rapp was buried yesterday, and overturned trash containers. Police detained 25 demonstrators.

A 30-year-old Nazareth man beaten yesterday by rioters near Rishon Leziyyon remains in critical condition. Some 10 people beat Talal Majasmah with pipes and wooden planks, lined with nails. A hospital spokesman said the nails caused deep wounds all over his body and cuts in his back.

Attacks on Innocent Arabs Condemned

TA2605133992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has condemned the recent attack on innocent Arabs. He told our political correspondent Arye Golan that such attacks are absolutely wrong and only play into the hands of terrorists. At the same time, he stressed that charging at murderers at the time of the crime is a brave act which deters and prevents more attacks.

Palestinian Negotiator Condemns Incident

TA2605045692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Chief Palestinian negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi condemned Rapp's murder [Helena Rapp, the young girl stabbed to death on 24 May]. 'Abd-al-Shafi called it abominable and said it only inflames the situation.

Settler Murdered in Gaza; Assailant Captured

Gaza Remains Sealed Off

TA2705061492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] A settler from Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip was murdered by a terrorist this morning near his settlement. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the terrorist came from behind and stabbed him in the back. All attempts to resuscitate him failed. The terrorist was shot and wounded by soldiers, and then captured. The scene of the crime has been cordoned off, and many soldiers are searching for the terrorist's accomplices. Our correspondent points out that the Gaza Strip remains closed and a curfew remains in effect in the al-Nusayrat and al-Mughazi refugee camps.

Gaza Strip Blockade Extended

TA2705085792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip following the murder of a girl in Bat Yam will be extended by another three days. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a decision to that effect was made last night in a debate attended by the chief of staff, the commander of Israel Police, and the coordinator of activities in the territories.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT reports the following: "A settler from Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip was murdered by a terrorist this morning near his settlement. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the terrorist came from behind and stabbed him in the back. All attempts to resuscitate him failed. The terrorist was shot and wounded by soldiers, and then captured. The scene of the crime has been cordoned off, and many soldiers are searching for the terrorist's accomplices. Our correspondent points out that the Gaza Strip remains closed and a curfew remains in effect in the al-Nusayrat and al-Mughazi refugee camps."]

Settlers on 'Rampage'

TA2705102192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Jewish settlers from Kfar Darom and Gush Qatif set out on a rampage in the wake of the murder of Shim'on Biran, the settlement's rabbi. Army and police troops are now trying to impose order. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Army closed off the entrance to Kfar Darom and tried to prevent settlers in the area from entering the settlement and getting to the Birans' house. There were sharp exchanges on the site between settlers and the Army. According to some eyewitness reports, two settlers fired shots into the air in a bid to break into Kfar Darom.

Fifty settlers went out to the fields of Arabs in the area, set two hothouses on fire, turned over two cars, and beat up two Arabs. Our correspondent adds that the settlers tried to get to an elementary school on the outskirts of Dayr al-Balah. The Army evacuated the schoolchildren aboard military vehicles for fear that they might be hurt. The settlers tried to destroy the school's fence with a bulldozer, but the Army stopped them.

IDF To Develop New Methods Against Intifadah

TA2405160992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 May 92 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Some four years after the beginning of the intifadah, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff has recently started discussions of the future direction of the uprising in the territories, expectations for the coming year, and new ways of handling it.

Senior military sources have reported that the discussions are attended, with the knowledge of Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, by high- ranking officers, including officers of the bureau of Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq.

All elements concerned with the daily treatment of the intifadah take part in the discussions, including representatives of the regional commands, Civil Administration, military governors, and Arab affairs advisers.

The sources added that the discussions examine all aspects of the intifadah—military, administrative, and so on. They mainly focus on shifts in the struggle in the territories and the rise in terror activity and use of firearms. In light of these changes, military set-ups, operation options, and possible reactions to them by the residents of the territories are being broached.

The sources further said that, in fact, such an examination is held annually on the level of the regional commands but, in view of the political process and the rise in the use of firearms, such an examination at this time indicates a significant development.

According to them, some of the discussions address issues such as the effects of the Gulf war, the reopening of universities, and the return to normalization in certain aspects of life in the territories.

The military sources said that these discussions are extremely important because, since the Gulf war, significant change have taken place in IDF activity in the territories; the activities of residents there; and the operations of the various organizations such as Hamas

[Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular and the Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, Fatah, and others

Arab affairs advisers who take part in the discussions analyze local politics in the territories and the reactions there to the activities of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, headed by Faysal al-Husayni.

According to military sources, there are many areas of operation that call for reassessment and reevaluation. According to them, at the conclusion of the discussions, the IDF will establish new points of operation, which may lead to completely new methods of operation.

Likud Calls For Halt to Mudslinging on Rabin

TA2605155392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpt] The Likud and the Labor party have agreed to stop the rabble-rousing at Yitzhaq Shamir's and Yitzhaq Rabin's rallies. Ministers Moshe Arens and Ari'el Sharon joined those expressing reservations about the Likud's attacks against Yitzhaq Rabin. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

The question is whether the Likud leadership is merely expressing distaste for the attacks against Rabin as a tactical move while these attacks continue in the field. This question comes against the backdrop of a rising chorus of voices within the Likud calling for a halt to the allegations about the Labor chairman regarding his drinking habits and his collapse during the Six-Day War, while at the same time the Likud election propaganda today dealt again with Rabin's disappearance on the eve of the 1967 war. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that he does not think that personal matters should be discussed. Arens, however, added that the Labor party was wrong to bet its entire campaign on one man. I think that issues and not individuals should be the focus for debate, Arens said.

Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon was even clearer. I do not think that one should focus on an individual's habits, his family members, or his weaknesses, Sharon said. He added, however, that the issue of whether an individual was suitable to be prime minister should be examined. [passage omitted]

Rabin on Likud Mudslinging

TA2305113192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 May 92

[Interview with Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin by Dov Gilhar on the "In the Current Situation" program on 22 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Gilhar] Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin, it is about a month before the elections, and we already hear about your so-called drinking problem and your performance on the eve of the Six-Day War. You undoubtedly anticipated this personal attack, did you not?

[Rabin] I had anticipated this. I knew and regret this. The charges should be answered, but in my opinion, we are being diverted from the main topics which should be discussed in an election campaign.

[Gilhar] You totally denied a connection with the bottle on quite a few occasions. As the person who suffered from this myth after all, I would like to ask you about its birth—when did you first notice this story?

[Rabin] This is baloney. I do not at all want to discuss this totally baseless issue.

[Gilhar] If this is baseless, how did it come up in the first place?

[Rabin] You should address this question to whoever is involved.

[Gilhar] Do you suspect anybody here?

[Rabin] I do not deal with this. [passage omitted]

[Gilhar] You are being attacked. Why would you not counterattack?

[Rabin] I would not want to enter our modus operandi now; everything in good time. Our guideline is that from certain viewpoints elections this time run on two closely related planes: Who the Israeli voter wants as prime minister, and which way, namely which party, the Israeli voter would like to see at the helm of the state.

[Gilhar] We spoke with Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday and asked him a few questions. He asked us: Where are Labor's numbers two, three, or four? Does Rabin embody the entire party?

[Rabin] No, on the contrary. There are numbers two, three....

[Gilhar, interrupting] Do you intend to present numbers two, three, and four in the campaign?

[Rabin] Not at this stage, if at all. [as heard]

[Gilhar] Will you be the only person featuring in this campaign?

[Rabin] No, many will participate in the campaign, but not according to the distribution of ministerial portfolios.

[Gilhar] In other words, we will see Shim'on Peres on the television election broadcasts.

[Rabin] Yes. You will see many, including Shim'on Peres.

[Gilhar] Referring to you, Peres said that even the great David Ben-Gurion did not add his name to that of the list.

[Rabin] Look, I do not want to enter internal Labor arguments. Decisions were made and different views were expressed, and it is legitimate to have different views.

[Gilhar] Peres did not set off a public argument over the ballot ticket finally. Are you grateful to him for that?

[Rabin] I greatly appreciate this.

[Gilhar] Mr. Rabin, highlighting you in this campaign may also turn you into the only person who will pay the price if the party fails finally. Are you aware of this?

[Rabin] I am aware of this. As you well know, in its convention Labor decided that its candidate for premiership would shoulder responsibility if a government led by Labor, or with Labor's partnership on a rotation basis, is not set up. If this is the case, a new party leader will be chosen within a year. I think this decision is correct. I am fully at peace with it. I think that the person who is privileged through election in our primaries by all the party voters to lead Labor for elections should shoulder responsibility for the results, for better, as I hope the case will be, or for worse, God forbid. [passage omitted]

[Gilhar] The following is a question I also asked Yitzhaq Shamir: Mr. Rabin, will this be the last election campaign in which you run for the premiership?

[Rabin] I hope we will win. The problem then will not be whether this is the last election campaign, but rather what we will do in the coming four years.

[Gilhar] Thank you.

Rabin Challenges Shamir to Public Debates

TA2305150592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 May 92

[Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin has called on Yitzhaq Shamir to hold at least three debates—anywhere, anytime—to allow the voters to decide whom they prefer as prime minister for the coming four years. In reaction, Minister Olmert, the head of the Likud's reaction team, said that his movement has already announced it is prepared for a single debate between Rabin and Shamir, and additional debates involving other leaders of the two major parties. [passage omitted]

Rabin Links Economy With Peace, Security

TA2205133792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 May 92

[Excerpt] Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin addressed businessmen at Tel Aviv's Dan Hotel a short time ago on national priorities and Labor's economic platform. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports:

Yitzhaq Rabin links our economic situation to a peace that provides security. Peace will improve our chances for economic rehabilitation, and economic strength will bring peace. Of course, the international situation and the United States have a strong impact on that. The way to do it is to determine priorities. How can that be done? Without investment in the territories.

[Begin Rabin recording] We will freeze the political settlements; we will not freeze building in the greater Jerusalem area and its environs and along the confrontation lines in the Jordan Rift Valley and the Golan Heights. That, in my view, is security settlement. Moreover, strengthening the existing settlements there is more important than adding new ones, but I am not ruling out the possibility of additions. [end recording]

Security equals peace, which equals a healthy economy. Rabin added that we will struggle against unemployment and will create conditions for the establishment of new plants, a market economy based on efficiency.

[Begin Rabin recording] We say the primary problem is fighting unemployment by creating jobs. A government does not set up plants; it helps. It forms an infrastructure, research and development, aid, guarantees for loans; it searches for ways to reduce the burden on exporters. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israel: Rabin Justifies IDF Operations in Lebanon

TA2605145992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin has justified the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operations in Lebanon. He believes that we had to react because the region was getting hotter and because, for the first time in many years, Hizballah managed to seize an South Lebanese Army post.

Answering a question, Rabin said that he hopes the Likud government will not heat up the border for political purposes and will not launch an unnecessary military operation for electioneering purposes. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin made the remarks during a tour of Arab villages in the Galilee.

Poll Shows Drop in Support for Religious Parties

TA2505122592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 May 92 p A4

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[Text] A poll conducted among the religious public shows that support for the ultra-Orthodox parties will drop from 17 to 11 Knesset seats. The poll, which was initiated by the ultra-Orthodox weekly YOM HASHISHI and the Policy Research Institute, points to a decline in support for all the religious parties.

The poll's results show that Yahadut Hatora, the united bloc of ultra-Orthodox parties, will only get four seats in comparison with the seven it holds today. SHAS [Torah-Observing Sephardim] will receive three seats as opposed to its current six, and the NRP [National

Religious Party] will drop from five to four seats. The poll claimed that Deputy Minister Eli'ezer Mizrahi's Ge'ulat Yisra'el list will not garner the minimum quota so all its votes will be lost.

In the past, ultra-Orthodox newspapers conducted polls without employing research institutes, so it was impossible to determine the accuracy of their surveys. Secular institutes encountered great difficulty in conducting polls among the ultra-Orthodox community, due to their suspicion and reluctance to cooperate. This poll was conducted on 20 May in eight towns from a sample of 1,231 respondents.

According to the poll, 12 percent of those who voted for religious parties in the previous elections will vote for a secular party this time. An analysis of the poll indicates that these are mainly people affiliated with the Habad movement, who were recruited by Agudat Yisra'el, or disillusioned SHAS voters.

Another significant figure is the large number (26 percent) of floating votes. Former Agudat Yisra'el and SHAS voters also form the majority of the undecided. YOM HASHISHI included the two Kahana lists, Kakh and Ko'ah, and neither of them passed the minimum quota.

Faysal al-Husayni Urges Arabs To Vote

TA2505151292 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 May 92 p 11

[Report by Sulayman al-Shafa'i]

[Text] "The Knesset election campaign will be fateful for the Palestinian people, and all the Arabs in Israel must vote in these elections so that the Arab parties tip the balance and influence political developments," Faysal al-Husayni said yesterday in Nazareth. It was the first time that al-Husayni has publicly referred to the Israeli election campaign.

New Budget, Loan Guarantees for Settlements

TA2505135192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The Knesset Finance Committee today approved a supplementary budget of 3.5 million shekels for the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department for several projects in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. About 900,000 shekels will be allocated for the Golan Heights; another 900,000 shekels for the Jordan Rift Valley; over 1 million for Judaea, Samaria, and Gush 'Etzyon, and 670,000 shekels for Gush Qatif and the Hebron Hills foothills.

The Finance Committee also approved a government loan guarantee for industrial plants in the territories. Our correspondent Eytan Almog reports that approval for the loan guarantees is aimed at resolving a legal problem since Israeli plants that ask for bank loans cannot mortgage their assets or lands through Israeli courts because Israeli law does not extend to the territories. A government loan guarantee for plants in the territories will include loans for construction of buildings, purchase of equipment, and working capital for periods of five to 12 years. Overall, the guarantees will be for 20 million shekels for plants in the territories that do not receive government tax breaks and another $30 million [currency as heard] for those that do.

Water Quality, Sewage Israel's 'Biggest Problem'

TA2505134292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 25 may 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The director general of Israel's Environmental Protection Ministry, Dr. Uri Marinov, says Israel's biggest problem is contaminated water reservoirs and the lack of water treatment facilities. He was speaking to reporter Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin recording] [Marinov] We do have still some problems, especially as far as water quality and sewage is concerned. You have to understand that one area that has not been well-defined and organized after the establishment of the ministry two-and-a-half years ago is the question of water quality and sewage treatment. Unfortunately, that situation has deteriorated in the last few years. We have untreated sewage flowing in wadis around the country, and except for the Tel Aviv-Dan Region, we really do not have adequate sewage treatment around the country, which also, of course, affects ground water and in certain areas, the quality of the marine water.

[Gur-Arye] Is this a problematic issue because it is an issue that several ministries see themselves as looking after?

[Marinov] My evaluation is that this is the major problem. It is not a technological problem, it is not even an ecological problem, it is a question of lack of a single authority. We have demonstrated time and again that once a certain area is being transferred to us as solely responsible, like marine pollution or air pollution, or others, we have been successful in introducing new legislation, enforcement, and planning. But, when a subject is so divided between four or five different ministries and the municipalities, and everyone has different ideas, that is probably the major cause of the problem. [end recording]

Hoof-and-Mouth Disease Plagues Cattle in North

TA2305074492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Hoof-and-mouth disease broke out among cattle herds in northern Israel following a break of a year and a half. A quarantine was imposed in the north, and it is forbidden to transfer animals, including hunted ones, southward. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling has learned that this disease first broke out in the Kibbutz

Senir's herd. It is believed that the disease spread to the north of Israel from Lebanon.

Palestinians Leave for Lisbon Multilaterals

TA2605163292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 92 p A5

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Four Palestinian delegates on the multilateral steering committee set out for Amman yesterday on their way to Lisbon. The committee's deliberations will begin tomorrow in Lisbon. The members of the Palestinian team are: Dr. Jabi Baramaki, the acting president of B'ir Zayt University; Dr. Jad Ishaq from Bayt Sahur; Samir Halilah, an economist and director of a Palestinian financial institution in Jerusalem; and Dr. Mustafa al-Barguthi, the head of the medical aid committees in the territories. They will be accompanied by three advisers who head some of the multilateral committees: Ilyas Sanbar, Yusuf Sayigh, and Yusuf al-Khudari.

Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, who yesterday departed for a round of talks with political figures in the Netherlands, Britain, and Germany, will also be present. In these meetings, the Palestinians and Europeans will coordinate positions. The Palestinians will ask their interlocutors to increase their involvement in the peace process and to use their ties with Israel to convince it to adopt more flexible positions. Dr. Sari Nusaybah, who is in charge of the experts' committees advising the Palestinian delegation to the peace process, apparently will also arrive in Lisbon.

These notables will be joined by several PLO representatives from Tunis, who will act as consultants. These will include Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh, who heads the PLO's Information Department and commands a wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Sulayman al-Najjab, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee and the leader of the Palestinian Peoples Party (ex-Palestine Communist Party).

According to delegation members, the Palestinian viewpoints on the future of the peace process are represented on the steering committee. The Palestinians will stress the predominant importance of making progress in the bilateral negotiations as a prerequisite to any progress in the multilateral talks.

They will also claim that no significant achievement in the multilaterals would be possible until the Palestinians are recognized as a legitimate political entity and fully represented on all the multilateral committees. The Palestinians will again raise their proposal from the Moscow conference, which calls for the establishment of two additional working committees in the multilateral framework: on Jerusalem affairs and human rights.

Local Muslims Leave for Mecca Pilgrimage

TA2605114792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpt] Israeli Muslims crossed the Allenby Bridge this morning on their way to Mecca for the annual pilgrimage. More than 3,000 are making the journey this year from Israel, although until only a few days ago the whole venture was in jeopardy. [passage omitted]

SLA Soldiers 'Cooperated' With Hizballah

TA2205155292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 92 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The SLA [South Lebanese Army] headquarters is carrying out extensive debriefings to examine whether there was any cooperation between the SLA soldiers and the Hizballah terrorists in the incident in which an outpost was taken two days ago by the Hizballah. It is assumed that at least one or two SLA soldiers cooperated with the terrorists. This is believed to be the reason that the soldiers were not hurt and appeared unharmed yesterday, for the first time since they were allegedly kidnapped by the Hizballah.

According to this assumption, many soldiers are defecting from the SLA and joining terrorist organizations for fear that Israel will have to leave the security zone eventually. That belief has caused a drop in SLA soldiers' motivation and a rise in SLA- terrorist cooperation. [passage omitted]

As political negotiations and peace talks between Israel and Lebanon continue, it is thought here that Israel will leave the security zone in the future.

SLA soldiers believe that if that happens, they will have to adjust to a new way of life and live in peace with the thousands of Shiites north of the security zone, and not be in conflict with them.

Last year, there was an increasing number of incidents of cooperation between SLA soldiers and terrorists. This was the case when terrorists attacked an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] convoy two months ago, killing two IDF soldiers.

At the time, it was assumed that SLA soldiers tipped off the terrorists and cooperated with them. [passage omitted]

According to IDF data, last year some 100 terrorists were killed in south Lebanon; the SLA had 12 fatalities, and the IDF had 10.

The IDF greatly appreciates the SLA soldiers, assists them, and regards them as disciplined and loyal soldiers—as a source at the IDF liaison unit in Lebanon has said.

The SLA cooperates with the IDF, but it often initiates operations in south Lebanon without notifying the IDF.

The four SLA soldiers held by the terrorists were not hurt, and the question of whether they cooperated with the terrorists or were really kidnapped is now being studied.

Arens Denies Reinforcing Troops in Lebanon

TA2705045592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] No special events occurred overnight on the northern border, and a tense quiet prevailed. A senior Army officer said the U.S. Administration, the Syrians, and Hizballah must jointly reach a decision to stop terrorist activities in the security zone. Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated last night that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has not reinforced its troops in south Lebanon and in the security zone. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

Defense establishment officials believe that the frequent Air Force raids—five within less than a week—managed to convey an unequivocal message to the Shiites and the Syrians that if quiet is not maintained on one side of the security zone, the other side will not be quiet either. Other Israeli sources take a different view and believe the Syrians may be interested in maintaining the tension in Lebanon to prevent implementation of the Ta'if agreement, which stipulates that they must get out of Lebanon next September.

In contrast, observers in Damascus note that Syria has apparently decided on a policy of restraint because it wants to pursue the peace process. Both the Syrian foreign minister and Defense Minister Moshe Arens issued more moderate declarations yesterday. Israeli military sources nevertheless reiterate that in Lebanon, everything is possible and nothing is predictable.

At a reception for Soldiers Welfare Association volunteers last night, the defense minister said he accepts the Syrian foreign minister's sincere remarks to the effect that Syria is not interested in escalating the situation. There will be no escalation, Minister Arens said, if Syria is not interested in one. He emphasized that the IDF has not reinforced its troops in Lebanon, because there is no need for it. Nevertheless, if Hizballah pursues its terrorist activity, we will have to take steps to put an end to it, Minister Arens asserted.

Arens—'No Fear of War' With Syria in Lebanon

TA2605154792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens believes that there is no fear of war between Israel and Syria in Lebanon. He noted that Syria was the aggressor in previous wars and that he believes that at this time, it has no plans for war. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the defense minister stressed that the Air Force attacks in Lebanon are aimed at halting Hizballah terror activity, which has increased over the past several months.

IDF Denies Syrian-Lebanese Antiaircraft Fire

TA2605143792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Reacting to reports that the Syrian and Lebanese Armies fired antiaircraft guns at Israeli planes this afternoon, military sources say that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] knows nothing about it.

IDF Denies Shelling North of 'Security Zone'

TA2605162992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Military sources said today that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] did not bombard targets north of the security zone today. This was stated to our correspondent Yo'av Aviv in response to foreign correspondents' reports about IDF artillery fire at targets north of the security zone.

Foreign Minister Says Syria 'Playing With Fire'

TA2605154992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi today called on Syria to prevent escalation in Lebanon and to curb the extreme organizations that create a situation that is dangerous to all. He noted that Syria supports those organizations and provides them with shelter. Levi stressed that this is playing with fire and that Israel will not tolerate any damage to its security.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Levi made the remark in response to reporters' questions following the ceremony where Israel and Byelarus established diplomatic relations.

Reportage of Visit of Byelarus Prime Minister

Accompanied by Foreign Minister

TA2605112092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Byelarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has arrived in Israel on a three-day visit. It the first time a head of the government of one of the Commonwealth of Independent States will be visiting Israel. He is accompanied by his foreign minister and economic aides. This afternoon, the two countries will sign an agreement establishing formal diplomatic ties.

Byelarus' Kebich Interviewed

TA2605125592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 92 p B3

[Interview with Byelarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich by Isabella Ginor; place and date not given]

[Text] [Ginor] What is the purpose of your visit to Israel?

[Kebich] Seeing that Byelarus set out to conduct an independent foreign policy we decided on a list of countries to which we would attach the highest priority insofar as the establishment of multifaceted relations, both diplomatic and economic, is concerned. Israel is included in the list because Jews lived on Byelarusian soil for hundreds of years. The Byelarusians and the Jews never had any conflicts.

You probably know that the "social experiment" conducted in our country for over 70 years severely damaged not only national Byelarusian culture but also the culture of other peoples living on Byelarusian soil, including Jews. I definitely understand those who left or plan to leave Byelarus due to their reawakened national feelings. Thousands of Jewish families have immigrated from Byelarus to Israel in the last few years. But does one forget the old homeland when one acquires a new one? Does one forget the land where one was born and raised? The land to which they are attached by a myriad of emotional strings? I think we have a very good chance of attaining close cooperation in many areas, to the benefit of both peoples.

[Ginor] You will be arriving in Israel after paying a state visit to Kuwait. What can you tell us about your links to this region?

[Kebich] Our connection with the region and our trip to Kuwait is linked to the fact that a parliamentary delegation led by the Kuwaiti finance minister visited Byelarus three months ago. Except for economic matters related to oil, we will discuss no other issues.

[Ginor] The story going around is that you rejected an invitation to visit Iraq. Is that true?

[Kebich] First, there was no such invitation. Second, I never intended to visit Iraq and we have no relations whatsoever with Iraq. The stories are totally unfounded.

[Ginor] Do you perceive Byelarus as an independent player in the international area or as part of a Slavic league of nations?

[Kebich] As an independent player. We witnessed the birth of the CIS. We will abide by all the protocols, documents, and agreements we signed in Minsk. However, the Byelarus Republic is first and foremost a European-style country. Therefore, we will not set up a regional Slavic union within the CIS. We consider ourselves as a state according to international standards.

[Ginor] How does the fact that Byelarus has been a long-standing full-fledged UN member help you in this context?

[Kebich] It helps us a great deal from the political point of view. At long last, particularly after we acquired full sovereignty, we succeeded in showing our positions on all sorts of problems to the entire world. For example, we objected to the UN resolution equating Zionism with fascism and supported the resolution that abrogated those charges. Finally, we are happy we no longer have sore necks. At voting time we no longer have to turn our heads to see what "Big Brother" is doing.

[Ginor] How are your relations with "Big Brother" evolving?

[Kebich] They are based on full equality, except for one point. It is very hard for us that Russia constantly raises the price of oil and other energy products. Our economy still depends on Russia's energy resources.

[Ginor] What is the Byelarusian position on the ethnic conflicts within the territory of the former USSR?

[Kebich] We deplore them.

[Ginor] Are you actively trying to settle them through peaceful means?

[Kebich] We played an active role in one conflict. An international conference to solve the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is being organized in Minsk these days.

[Ginor] When will the conference convene?

[Kebich] In the second half of June, if events there do not take a different turn.

[Ginor] When you say "different turn" do you mean military activity?

[Kebich] No, I mean political international activity.

[Ginor] Does Byelarus hold any grudges against "Big Brother" because of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster?

[Kebich] Russia is not to blame for the Chernobyl disaster, since the power station was on Ukrainian territory. I can tell you that Russia is doing its best to help overcome the consequences of the disaster.

[Ginor] Let us go back to your expectations from the trip to Israel. What are you hoping for?

[Kebich] I hope there will be a sincere exchange of views. I think we will be able to settle many questions involving economic cooperation. I would like an agreement on trade and economic cooperation to be signed as a result of my visit. We are proposing to the Israelis to take part in the conversion of military industries to civilian purposes. We will propose cooperation in the field of electronics, electric equipment, machinery, and the

launching of joint enterprises. We would like to exchange technology on agricultural crops and the processing, packaging, storage, and transportation of agricultural produce.

As for myself, I would like to visit one of the kibbutzim I have heard so much about. I think it would not be a bad idea to start learning from Israel about the establishment of a banking infrastructure. In my opinion, there is a good chance of setting up a joint bank for mutual financing, and I think we will definitely discuss the long-pending question of direct flights between Minsk and Tel Aviv. We are also interested in the establishment of pharmaceutical and medical equipment plants and we would like to organize specialization courses for our doctors in Israel. I hope we will discuss other issues, such as exchanges of culture, tourism, and students.

[Ginor] With whom will you meet in Israel?

[Kebich] I have been invited by the prime minister, and I am sure he will give me an audience; at least, this is what I would like to happen. As for other meetings, our ambassador-designate to Israel is on his way to your country. He will coordinate the program and notify me by fax.

Shamir, Kebich Hold Talks

TA2605153992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Byelarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich conferred today with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Jerusalem. Mr. Shamir noted the historic importance of the visit. During the visit, the two countries will sign an agreement establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The guest expressed the hope that Byelarus and Israel will expand cooperation in medicine, agriculture, flights, and culture. Mr. Shamir responded that these issues are included in the memorandum of understanding the two countries will sign and that Israel will provide Byelarus with industrial and technological know-how.

Full Diplomatic Ties Established

TA2605184792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Israel and the Byelarus Republic have established full diplomatic relations at a ceremony in Jerusalem this afternoon. Earlier, the Byelarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich met with Prime Minister Shamir. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The newly independent Republic of Byelarus lies between Russia and Poland and has a population of 10 million. Visiting Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich told Prime Minister Shamir he hoped Israel and Byelarus will be able to increase cooperation in all fields. Prime Minister Shamir noted the historical importance of the visit.

At a ceremony attended by the visiting prime minister, the Byelarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko and Foreign Minister Levi signed the protocol for the establishment of full diplomatic relations. The two men also signed a memorandum of understanding covering a wide area, including trade and economics, culture, transport, and agriculture. The Byelarusians are particularly interested in Israeli technological expertise in helping them convert military industry to civilian production.

Vladimir (Sechestni) from the Byelarus Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed the common heritage shared between the two peoples:

[(Sechestni)] For quite a long time we had lived in one and the same country, at least part of the population that migrated later to Israel, and I think, well, proceeding from this cultural heritage and spiritual heritage we can now base our relations both in economic and other fields too.

[Weiss] About 200,000 Jews remain in Byelarus and, according to (Sechestni), they are totally free to emigrate to Israel, if they so wish.

[(Sechestni)] There is no resentment, at least at the moment, among our population and there are special charter flights now from Minsk to Israel, and all those who want to migrate to your country can do it freely. [end recording]

Agreement on Flights to Tbilisi Signed

TA2205164592 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 22 May 92 p 10

[Report by Dani Shalom]

[Text] Israel and Georgia signed an aviation agreement on Wednesday. According to the agreement the two countries will operate regular flights between Tbilisi and Ben-Gurion Airport. The flights will be operated by El Al and (Orbi), a company recently established in Georgia.

The agreement was signed last Wednesday at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem by the head of the Georgian economic delegation visiting Israel, and Shay Shuhemi, the head of Israel's Civil Aviation Authority.

The negotiations on the agreement were the continuation of the understandings reached between Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav's and his Georgian counterpart during Qatzav's recent visit to Georgia.

Gorbachev To Arrive on Visit on 14 Jun

TA2205183492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will arrive on a visit to Israel on 14 June. This was reported by Yuval Ne'eman to our correspondent Yuval Almog

after a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Professor Osipov, president of the Russian Academy of Sciences [title as heard].

Our political correspondent Arye Golan adds that in the meeting Prof. Osipov said that the Russian Academy is determined to expand scientific ties between Israel and Russia and extend agreements that have already been signed with Israeli universities. He intends to rely on scientists who recently immigrated from Russia to Israel. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction with the expanding scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Diplomatic Relations Resumed With Sierra Leone

TA2705112092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Israel and Sierra Leone have renewed diplomatic relations after a break of 19 years. The West African state becomes the 16th black African country to maintain diplomatic ties with Israel. Foreign Minister David Levi and the visiting Sierra Leone minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Ahmed Dumbuya, signed the protocols at a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this morning. After the signing, reporter Mark Weiss spoke with the visiting foreign minister.

[Begin recording] [Dumbuya] I consider them very important, because we have had experience of having relations with Israel before they were broken and they were very warm, of mutual benefit to both countries. We believe that by renewing them we'll be contributing to international peace, as well as starting again those mutual benefits that accrued to both nations when we had relations.

[Weiss] Which areas of cooperation are you particularly interested in?

[Dumbuya] As you know, we are a country with lots of resources. We would like cooperation in the area of mining because we've got diamonds and iron ore. We would like cooperation in the area of agriculture. We have large extents of arable land, and we know about Israel's experience in agriculture; possibly in fisheries and training.

[Weiss] Looking back, do you think it was a mistake to break off relations in 1973?

[Dumbuya] Well, the past is the past and, in the circumstances, it was in solidarity with a cause. We believe that it probably served its purpose at the time, but now the time has come to review that decision and take measures that are positive. [end recording]

Delegation Departs for Lisbon Negotiations

JN2505165492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 May 92

[Excerpt] The Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the steering committee of the multilateral peace talks has left for Lisbon. The delegation is led by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah. In addition to the negotiating parties from the Middle East, the United States, Russia, Japan, the EC, Canada, the Gulf states, Morocco, and Egypt will participate in the group's meetings. [passage omitted]

UAE National Carrier Resumes Amman Flights

JN2305174992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Ahmad Juwaybir, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority, has said that the Emirates Airways will resume its flights to Jordan as of 5 June. The company will organize two flights per week, with the first flight to land at Queen Alia Airport on Friday morning, 5 June. It should be mentioned that the Emirates Airways stopped its flights to Amman on 12 January 1992 [date as heard] because of the Gulf crisis.

Debt Rescheduled With Four Paris Club Members

JN2405080392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 May 92 p 1

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has finalised bilateral debt rescheduling accords with four countries and is pursuing contacts with others in line with an agreement reached with the Paris Club of government creditors in February, covering payments originally due beween mid- 1991 and mid-1993, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michel Martu said Saturday.

"We have progressed very well in our contacts with the creditor governments," Mr. Martu said. "We have already finalised agreements with the United States and Canada and expect to sign accords with Denmark and France soon," he added. "Discussions with the others are continuing and we hope to conclude all agreements," before the target date of September.

The amount involved in the agreement with the U.S. is $127.8 million and includes loans and guarantees provided to Jordan by the Agency for International Development, the Department of Defence, the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Eximbank.

The Canadian and Danish accords cover a "few million each," Mr. Martu told the Jordan Times.

The agreement with France involves close to one billion French francs (about $184 million), said Mr. Martu, who returned from Paris Friday after putting the final touches on the accord, which is expected to be signed soon.

The accord reached with the Paris Club set out the terms and conditions for separate bilateral agreements with 14 government creditors to be concluded before September this year.

The total amount involved in the accord, Mr. Martu said, was around $800 million, including $603 million due in 1992 and 50 per cent of the interest. Jordan has to pay the other half of the interest.

Under the agreement, government-to-government debts were rescheduled for 10 years with a grace period of 10 years and development loans were rescheduled for eight years with a seven-year grace period.

On Jordan's commercial debts, Mr. Martu said the government was awaiting a new draft agreement with the London Club of commercial creditors after Amman turned down an earlier draft which was found to be "much short of our expectations and the initial agreement" that was reached in early March. "The ball is in their court now."

CBJ Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi explained that "there was a lot of shortcomings" in the draft agreement in terms of the debt buy- back, conversion and swap objectives that were sought by Jordan along the lines of the Brady plan, which offers debt relief.

Jordan's debts to commercial banks and financial institutions grouped under the London Club are around $1 billion, Dr. al-Nabulsi told the Jordan Times.

Dr. al-Nabulsi said Jordan was not expecting a debt write-off per se, but pointed out that "debt buy-back" at a discounted rate amounted to some form of debt "write-down of a significantly high percentage."

For instance, Mr. Martu said, the Danish government has agreed to reschedule Jordan's debts at "zero" interest, "which obviously is a debt write-off without using the term."

"We are not expecting any blanket write-off of Jordan's debts," Dr. al-Nabulsi said, pointing out that such forms of debt relief are offered only in "explicitly political situations."

"It is not realistic to seek debt write-off for a middle-income country like Jordan," he added.

"It is well known that there have been very few strictly political cases where debts have been written off," the CBJ governor said, citing Egypt, Poland and Mexico as examples.

Transport Minister Receives Yemeni Counterpart

JN2105170892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpt] Engineer 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport, today received Yemeni Transport Minister Salih al-Muthanna and his accompanying delegation, who are currently on a visit to Jordan.

Bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries in the various fields of transportation were reviewed, as well as ways of developing and consolidating these ties. [passage omitted]

King Returns From Europe, Says Talks 'Positive'

JN2205192292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that the talks he held in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were very positive and good. In a statement to the press upon arrival in the homeland this evening, his majesty said that his talks dealt with the latest developments in the international arena.

[Begin recording] The talks were good in all aspects. I believe that all the results have been positive and good. The meeting at The Hague at the beginning of the visit was quite excellent. It was an opportunity to present our vision of the present and future, as well as our state of affairs in this part of the world.

Thanks be to God, the visit to Britain was also successful in terms of our meetings with officials there, especially the [British] prime minister and other meetings.

So, thanks be to God, all the results were [word indistinct]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Trade Talks Begin With Bulgarian Delegation

JN2505081792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 May 92 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan and Bulgaria opened talks here Sunday aimed at promoting the exchange of trade and increasing Jordanian phosphate sales, fertiliser and cement sales to Sofia through barter deals between the two countries.

The talks were conducted here through a visiting Bulgarian team which met with Minister of Supply Muhammad al-Saqqaf with whom they had a general review of trade between the two countries with particular emphasis on meat imports from Bulgaria.

The Ministry of Supply plans to offer the private sector merchants in Jordan the freedom to import any quantities of fresh meat from Bulgaria and will issue licences shortly to allow this operation to take place, announced the minister at the meeting.

He demanded that Bulgaria continue to supply Jordan with the same good quality of fresh meat calling on Sofia to reduce the meat prices so that more imports can be made and more trade can be conducted between the two countries.

Mr. al-Saqqaf said that Jordan hopes to import more Bulgarian meat in exchange for more sales to Bulgaria of Jordanian phosphate, potash, cement and fertilisers.

The head of the Bulgarian team expressed hope that the strong ties between the two countries would be further enhanced through bolstered trade, noting that Jordan's markets are very important for Bulgarian goods.

The Bulgarian team called on the Jordanian private sector to make investments in Bulgaria in light of the new political changes in that country and the opening of the free Bulgarian markets. The head of the team extended an invitation to the minister to visit Bulgaria for more talks with the government in economic and supply fields.

Along with Romania and Turkey, Bulgaria has been one of the main suppliers of fresh meat to the Jordanian market. One kilo of Bulgarian [meat] in the local market costs JD2 compared with more than JD 3.5 for one kilo of locally produced lamb meat.

Jerusalem Holy Sites Discussed With UNESCO

JN2605145992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Dhuqan al-Hindawi, acting prime minister and minister of education, this morning received Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Atrash, director of UNESCO's regional office for education in the Arab countries.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the restoration of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock. Dr. al- Atrash explained that UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor has confirmed to him that no work will be carried out, and that no measures will be taken concerning these Islamic holy sites without first consulting and coordinating with the Jordanian Government, and without it approving any measure dealing with the restoration and maintenance of these sites.

Al-Atrash praised Jordan's experience and know-how, which were gained over long years of commitment to maintaining this important Islamic landmark and keeping it ready to receive Muslims.

The deputy prime minister emphasized that Jordan, under its Hashemite leadership, has not and will not abandon its duty and role of maintaining and restoring the third holy mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock, as well as the rest of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in the holy city. He added that this was recently substantiated in his Majesty King Husayn's initiative, and the wonderful response by the popular sectors in Jordan and the occupied West Bank to this initiative, which seeks to maintain one of the most remarkable Islamic landmarks in the world.

Discussion also dealt with the many aspects of cooperation between Jordan and UNESCO in various educational fields and means to develop them in a way that fulfills the noble pursuit of knowledge.

Sharp Decline in Trade With Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

JN2705073092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 May 92 p 7

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's trade pattern showed little shift away from the Kingdom's traditional sources and markets in fiscal 1991 except some of the Arab Gulf states, notably Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Jordan's efforts to increase its exports to non-Gulf markets are showing gradual success, particularly to some of the Western and Far Eastern countries, according to official statistics. However, Iraq continued to be Jordan's leading trading partner, accounting for almost 10 per cent the Kingdom's total exports as well as imports.

Iraq's exports to Jordan amounted to JD [Jordanian dinars] 273.15 million and its imports from Jordan were worth JD 118.54 million in 1990, accounting for 20 per cent of the Kingdom's total trade.

Total Jordanian exports during 1991 were worth JD 588.627 million, reflecting a decline from JD 612.52 million in 1990, while imports were about three-fold this figure, registering JD 1,710.463 million compared with JD 1,725.828 million in 1990.

Phosphates and potash exports accounted JD 219.9 million, fertilisers JD 86.5 million and vegetables JD 43.5 million.

The figures do not include trade conducted through the free zones.

The 1991 trade deficit remained almost unchanged at JD 1.112 billion from the 1990 figure of JD 1.114 billion.

While Iraq was the single largest trade partner of Jordan, with a total trade exchange of JD 226.69 million (JD 170.87 in exports and JD 55.82 in imports), India continued to be the largest importer of Jordanian products with an annual total of JD 109.64 million during 1991 and exports totalling JD 53.48 million, figures released by the Department of Statistics and quoted by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) showed.

Jordan's exports to Iraq were food and medicine and related products allowed under Article 20 of U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 while Iraqi exports to the Kingdom were oil, under a special exemption granted by the sanctions committee.

The United States remained the largest exporter to Jordan although the 1991 volume declined to JD 178.15 million from JD 299.48 million in 1990. Jordanian exports to the U.S. declined to JD 2.27 million in 1991 from JD 3.51 million in 1990.

The European Community (EC) increased its exports to Jordan in 1991 by JD 13 million with goods worth JD 512.22 million while its imports from the Kingdom totalled JD 18.52 million compared with exports of JD 494.07 million and imports of JD 22.10 million in 1990.

Germany accounted for the lion's share of EC exports to Jordan, with a total of JD 133.18 million (JD 101.23 million in 1990) while its imports were worth JD 1.67 million (JD 2.01 million in 1990).

Among the countries which increased their imports from Jordan in 1991 were China (by JD 14.5 million), South Korea (by JD 2.4 million), Poland (by JD 2.7 million), Syria (by JD 700,000), Lebanon (by JD 1.3 million), Bahrain (by JD 6 million), Qatar (by JD 6.2 million), the United Arab Emirates (by JD 4.5 million) and the Netherlands (by JD 3.6 million). The statistics indicated that other, unnamed countries had increased their imports from Jordan by over JD 81.67 million.

While the Kingdom's trade with the West and the Far East appeared to have stabilised during the year, an unpredictable pattern emerged with the Gulf Arab states, relations with which were strained in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Any comparison between the 1990 and 1991 figures of trade with the Gulf Arab states has to take into consideration that trade during the five-month period in 1990 after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August cannot be seen as any firm indication of commercial trends in the region in view of the tension that prevailed and the war that followed, trade analysts noted.

However, Jordanian trade with Saudi Arabia declined dramatically during 1991, with JD 27.667 million (JD 76.408 million in 1990) in imports and JD 11.023 million in exports (JD 46.815 million in 1990).

The Kuwaiti market was all but lost to Jordan, with imports from the Kingdom amounting to JD 363,000 (JD 25.777 million in 1990) and JD 99,000 (JD 11.056 million in 1990) in exports.

On the other hand, Jordanian exports to Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates went up to a total of JD 58.80 million in 1991 from JD 41.353 million in 1990 while imports from the three totalled JD 19.629 million compared with JD 13.386 million in 1990.

Lebanon increased its trade with Jordan, accounting for JD 21.090 million in exports (JD 10.993 million in 1990) and JD 10.040 in imports (JD 8.836 million).

Japanese exports to Jordan went up by JD 7 million from JD 54.32 million in 1990 but imports declined by JD 2.3 million to JD 10.64 million.

A further country-by-country split-up showed exports to and imports from Jordan during 1991 as under corresponding figures for 1990 are given in brackets: [sentence as published]

Egypt: JD 22.90 million (JD 19.36 million) and JD 4.324 million (JD 10.662 million).

Syria: JD 39.01 million (JD 11.96 million) and JD 9.11 million (JD 8.41 million).

Lebanon: JD 21.10 million (JD 11 million) and JD 10.04 million (JD 8.84 million).

Bahrain: JD 10.78 million (JD 5.23 million) and 11.62 million (JD 5.66 million).

Qatar: JD 6.48 million (JD 5.148 million) and JD 10.418 million) (JD 4.234 million).

The United Arab Emirates: JD 2.37 million (JD 3 million) and JD 26.07 million (JD 21.454 million).

EC countries:

Belgium: JD 44.428 million (JD 50.585 million) and JD 582,000 (JD 772,000).

France: JD 73.60 million (JD 97.892 million) and JD 3.182 million (JD 6.073 million).

Germany: JD133.182 million (JD 101.225 million) and JD 1.665 million (JD 2.987 million).

The Netherlands: JD 57.71 million (JD 47.8 million) and JD 6.542 million (JD 2.987 million).

Italy: JD 73.627 million (JD 67.621 million) and JD 3.51 million (JD 4.290 million).

The United Kingdom: JD 77.570 million (JD 87.387 million) and JD 973.000 (JD 1,876 million).

Denmark: JD 12.637 million (JD 7.946 million) and JD 44,000 (JD 46,000)

Greece: JD 15.949 million (JD 6.496 million) and JD 1.234 million (JD 2.763 million)

Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the ex-soviet Union and ex-Yugoslavia): JD 85.648 million (JD 85.326 million) and JD 27.821 million (JD 23.457 million).

China: JD 29.149 million (JD 25.02 million) and JD 32.567 million (JD 18.044 million).

Turkey: JD 57.140 million (JD 46.11 million) and JD 13.07 million (JD 15.114 million).

Taiwan: JD 40.128 million (JD 30.198 million) and JD 10.688 million (JD 13,613 million).

South Korea: JD 24.771 million (JD 17.558 million) and JD 9.979 million (JD 7.568 million).

Pakistan: JD 2.216 million (JD 1.336 million) and JD 4.586 million (JD 8.819 million).

Other countries (annamed in the CBJ statistics): JD 392.844 million (JD 247.218 million) and 224.694 million (JD 143.026 million).

Changes in Iraq Required To Revive ACC

JN2505083592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 May 92 p 4

[From the "Weekly Political Pulse" column by Walid al-Sa'id: "New Blood Is Needed To Revive Slumbering ACC"]

[Text] In case we have forgotten, the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen created in 1989 with much fanfare is not yet dead and buried. All it needs is another determined effort to resurrect it from its dormancy and state of oblivion. And this is the time to do just that in view of the widespread disarray among the Arab countries and especially in the aftermath of the Gulf war. And the fact that Baghdad is still ostracised by the other members of the ACC is no reason to keep it in abeyance for much longer.

There is a consensus among the Arabs that the Arab World needs to regroup after its unity has been dealt a death blow by the consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. What better way to attain that noble aim than to breath new life into Arab sub-regional groupings that promised to usher in a new era into the Arab order? The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is well and alive and the degree of cooperation and coordination among its six member states is really commendable and makes it the envy of the rest of the Arab countries. It will be also remembered that the ACC came into being not as a sub-regional Arab union that runs counter to the GCC or the North African Arab states, but rather as a complementary assembly of Arab states drawn together by special national and regional considerations.

For a while, the intentions of the leaders of the four states that formed the ACC were unduly a subject of scepticism and cynicism and viewed as a gouping of Arab governments with hostile intentions towards the GCC countries. The Gulf war proved the fallacy of the premature submission that the ACC countries harbour ill intentions to the Arab Gulf states and that it came into existence as a counter weight to them. For starters, Cairo spearheaded the Arab effort, both diplomatic and military, to abort the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait and had no hesitation to pour its wrath on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his regime over the crisis even though Baghdad was a founding member of the ACC. Jordan, on the other hand, took another stand that aimed to abort the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait by inter-Arab peaceful means, a posture that put it, for a while at least, diametrically opposed to Egypt.

But now this is history that can serve as a launching pad for a new beginning based on the lessons drawn from the painful experiences of the last couple of years. This new start can be kicked off with the revitalisation of the defunct ACC on new, sounder and wider basis. For one thing, Syria needs to be integrated into the ACC formula. There is no escape from the conclusion that Syria is still a regional power capable of playing pivotal roles in the

shaping of a new Arab order. One of the weaknesses of the old ACC structure was perhaps the absence of Damascus from the ACC fold at a time when its position, both geographical and political, falls squarely within the ACC. It is more natural and logical to have Syria within the ACC than to continue to have Yemen within its ranks. The Yemeni membership, it will be remembered, caused considerable consternation in the Arab Gulf region and unnecessarily touched their sensitivities. On that score, perhaps it would be advisable to reintegrate Yemen in the region to which it belongs rather than to juxtapose it to the region of the ACC countries. In the same vein, Lebanon may also be a natural candidate for membership to the new ACC. There is no other logical place for Lebanon, within the various sub-regional Arab association of states, than the ACC. The only remaining stumbling bloc is the question of what to do with Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war. This sticking point needs to be put on the agenda of the first ever meeting by the heads of state of the new ACC. Sooner or later, Iraq will regain its natural position within ACC. After all, it was not Iraq per se which was condemned for the occupation of Kuwait, but rather its regime.

Dallul Denies German Hostages Discussed in Tehran

NC2605113092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul denied that his talks in Tehran dealt with the two German hostages. He said he represented Lebanon in the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, meetings in Tehran.

While in Tehran, Dallul met with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He added that it was agreed to establish a joint technical committee to discuss Iranian agricultural aid to Lebanon.

Additional Reportage on Reactions to Israeli Acts

Israeli Withdrawal Demanded

JN2605111992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Doha, 26 May (WAKH)—Lebanese State Minister Nazih al-Bizri said that Lebanon will not participate in the multilateral talks with Israel unless it receives a clear promise from Israel, guaranteed by the United Nations, fixing the date and mechanism for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

In a statement to the Qatari AL-'ARAB newspaper today, Nazih said southern Lebanon does not constitute the entire issue, but it is an important part of it. We have never felt comfortable about the presence of Israel, which launches aggressions on our land and people without being confronted by the Security Council and the United Nations.

Referring to the Syrian presence in Lebanon, the Lebanese official said this came at a request from the Lebanese Government, adding that Lebanon and Syria are bound by a treaty of brotherhood and coordination, while there is only a truce agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

He said the Lebanese Army is now capable of filling the vacuum in the south when Israel withdraws. He added that the Army is also able to fill the security vacuum after Syria pulls out.

Iran's Khamene'i on 'Barbaric Attacks'

NC2605145492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Islamic revolution leader Ayatollah Sayyid 'Ali Khamene'i addressed a message to Hizballah secretary general, saying: In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: Your Eminence Hizballah Secretary General Hojjat ol-eslam val Moslemin Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, may the Almighty preserve you.

May God give you peace for your patience. The usurping Zionist enemy's barbaric attacks and genocide against the unarmed, innocent people in south Lebanon show that the enemy cannot face up to Hizballah's faithful, courageous, and sacrificing Islamic resistance.

Armed to the hilt and depending on American help, the enemy has shown its teeth, pouring its wrath publicly on *innocent and unarmed women and children in south* Lebanon, after being severely hit by the resistance heroes, who are armed, primarily, with their faith and love of sacrifice.

The usurping Zionists are committing the most horrendous and barbaric crimes in front of the world. They kill, kidnap, bombard heavily populated areas, destroy villages, and force the people to leave. The world coolly watches these crimes. Daily, the situation proves that your rights and jihad for God's sake are lawful.

Those who negotiate with the impudent, inflexible, and despotic enemy are deceiving themselves if they think the enemy might recognize the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples' rights and surrender Muslim lands. The right course is that that you have chosen by the almighty's guidance. You forced your enemy to kneel. Your course is that of God and his loyal followers. Pursuing that course and showing no fear of the enemies will eventually bring a God-guided victory.

In the past 10 years, you experienced that test several times. You saw the divine promise being fulfilled to verify God's words: God will certainly aid those who aid his cause. [Koranic verse]. Enjoy your reward, O you mujahidin, for God's sake.

I feel great sorrow for the martyrdom of the pious Hizballah youths and unarmed and innocent civilians in south Lebanon. I am pleased by the awareness and amazing courage of Hizballah youths—these faithful, brave, and sacrificing elements. I offer my condolences on the bloody incidents to the Lebanese people, particularly the brothers in Hizballah, the families of the martyrs, and to your esteemed person. I pray to the Almighty to make the absent imam take care of Hizballah fighters. [Signed] 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i

Nasrallah Views 'Zionist Aggression'

NC2605140092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 May 92

[Report on a news conference by Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah with unidentified correspondents about "the continuing Zionist aggression against the south and western al- Biqa'," on 26 May, place not given]

[Text] Secretary General Nasrallah said: Once again the criminal Zionist aggression has escalated, and its savageness has become manifest in massacres, killing, and the annihilation of our patient and steadfast people in Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biqa.' He added: Through this terrorism, they are attempting to damage our Islamic nation's humanity, land, sanctities, water, and heritage through barbaric methods that surpass imagination and

logic in contemporary history. This bloody terrorism is supported by all the huge capabilities and destructive weapons of the U.S. Administration and its spokesmen statements for self-restraint. These statements demonstrate deceit and wickedness, something all the weak and oppressed people of the world have come to know.

His eminence affirmed that it is no coincidence that the administration of the American devil has asked the Lebanese Government to confiscate the resistance weapons. Every day the government proves that it is the enemy of the oppressed peoples and the principal protector of this usurping entity, which is its malicious creation.

Nasrallah continued: In view of what is happening, we must note the following:

1. The Great Satan—through its suspect call for the resistance to be disarmed—is preparing for the Zionist enemy to continue its crimes and escalate its savage actions against our oppressed people. In doing so, it is complementing its indifferent position towards Lebanon's complaint to the UN Security Council. This is just more, unequivocal proof of the devilish nature of U.S. policy. The resistance is defending the people and land to end this hated occupation. The Lahdist agents are serving as sandbags for the hated occupation in areas used for aggression and criminal action against our people and land.

2. The Zionist enemy's leaders are claiming that their treacherous and barbaric attacks target resistance positions; but what they really target are defenseless civilians—including the elderly, women, and children. Let the world and local media visit the locations and targets subjected. They will discover that they are all civilian targets and that the victims and martyrs are innocent civilians, including a large number of children and women in Jibshit, Dirdghayya, Majdal Silm, Mashgharah, Suhmur, 'Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun, and the other areas and villages that came under attack and concentrated shelling.

3. The enemy's entity is going through a dilemma, because its role in the occupied strip has been exposed following the Islamic Resistance's heroic operation against its agents' position in 'Alman and the ensuing crushing defeat and alarm, fear, and disintegration. This came at a time when the entity was going through an internal crisis as a result of the stiff competition among the parties and forces in the elections. It is trying to shift this crisis to Lebanon through its aggressive methods in order to beat the competitors over the so-called Zionist Knesset seats.

4. Nasrallah said: The resistance is Lebanon's beating heart—without it Lebanon would fall. Resistance today is necessary to liberate and safeguard the unoccupied lands, which is undoubtedly part of the enemy's Talmudic ambitions. Continuing resistance activity will block the enemy's ambition, because it understands the risks involved if it begins a new occupation operation. Everyone knows that the enemy is still suffering from the situation created during its 1982 experience and the human, moral, and material losses involved. The enemy should expect additional losses if it embarks on a new insane operation.

5. By its barbaric escalation of the attacks against the south and western al-Biqa' and by conducting continuous air raids and artillery bombardment of civilian homes, the enemy is trying to attain a number of goals, including: To force the inhabitants to evacuate their villages and homes; to create a state of despair and frustration; and to push the inhabitants into second-guessing the resistance. Their ultimate goals are to shake and weaken the Lebanese consensus on the lawfulness and necessity of resisting the occupation until the lands are liberated and to pressure the resistance and weaken the morales of the mujahidin. They want to dissuade the fighters from conducting operations by carrying out brutal massacres themselves. Some naive people think that these crimes are merely an Israeli reaction to resistance operations rather than part of the Israeli plan, which is greedy for the south's land, resources, and water.

We, Nasrallah added, in contrast, firmly believe that our people will stand fast and be loyal to their dignity, land, and Muslim values, just as they have shown throughout the long years of the ordeal.

We also reiterate that resistance operations will continue to defend our people and restore our occupied lands, he said; adding: We warn the Israeli enemy against continuing its barbaric practices against civilians, women, and children. If they do not heed this call, our response will be severe. We will absolutely not stand and let this happen without doing anything, he said.

6. Nasrallah continued: We caution against acquiescing to U.S. pressure and Zionist threats by trying to evade this natural and lawful option [resistance], which doing pits the authorities against our people, who have chosen resistance as their only course.

In the meantime, he continued, the state is once again invited to shoulder its full responsibility vis-a-vis what is happening. It is also invited to formulate a political plan by adding to its ministerial statement a clear qualification demonstrating its support and backing for resistance as a lawful right to liberate the land from the occupation. The state is invited to fulfill its promises and support the steadfastness of the people in the confrontation area.

7. We invite everyone to get seriously and effectively involved in the honorable resistance activity. We reiterate that we support cooperation and integration with all loyal and resisting factions, Nasrallah said.

8. We call on all those who have joined Agent Lahd's militia to withdraw, seek forgiveness, and return to their homeland and people. They have to realize that all the enemy's barbaric attempts to raise their collapsing morale will not protect them from the hands of the

mujahidin, which is the chance of a lifetime for them to become humans again instead of being worn out defensive barriers that will soon be crushed under the feet of the mujahidin, as was the case in 'Alman.

Nasrallah urged our people to be more steadfast and tenacious in confronting the sufferings caused by the aggression. He added: We remind them of God's words: If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others. Such fortunes we give to men by turns. We also remind them of His saying: If ye are suffering hardships, they are suffering similar hardships; but ye have hope from God, while they have none. [Koranic verses] Relief is born at the height of the ordeal. Relief comes with all difficulties. We will achieve victory through your steadfastness, our jihad, and the jihad of all sincere people. The land will remain ours. You will persist, and the invaders will vanish with God's assistance and his divinely given victory.

Responding to a reporter's question about the Army commander's statement that confronting the Zionists is a necessity, the Hizballah secretary general said:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] On the first point, the Army commander's statement is certainly positive, good, and a favorable sign. To regain the south, it is in the interest of all forces to cooperate and coordinate, because we are fighting the same battle and face the same danger. We feel that we and Syria have absolutely the same position about the resistance issue, which is natural. I believe that the full text of the message his eminence the guardian of the Muslim cause [Ayatollah Khamene'i] sent to me on the aggression was published today. People should examine the full text of this message, God willing. The Lebanese people have the right to obtain resistance weapons however they can. Owning weapons to resist the occupation is a legitimate right.

[Question indistinct]
[Nasrallah] I do not wish to address the people now. I do wish to send a message to all the Jews who came to Palestine. I want to tell them that their ambitions, dreams, and aggression can never provide them with the security, stability, and regional power they want. If they truly want security, peace, and stability, they must return from where they came. I believe the climate in Paris is better than Palestine. Let them return to Paris, London, Australia, from wherever they were before. This is the best I can say to those who came and invaded our territory and homeland and displaced an entire nation.

[Question indistinct]
[Nasrallah] We see the authorities benefiting from their sympathy with the resistance. Any politician with any real political awareness senses the greatness of his people when he sees their will to fight and their martyrdom spirit. The authorities are dutybound to politically utilize the resistance for the sake of liberation. It is not their duty to tame, freeze, or obstruct the resistance for the good of the negotiations. We call on the authorities to involve themselves seriously in the resistance. It is true that the resistance is a military resistance. It involves staying on the land, providing services, and keeping the people informed. It also involves politics and diplomacy. But the diplomacy, politics, and the services must serve the actions of the resistance. We must not tell the resistance that it must comply with diplomacy. Diplomacy must comply with the actions of the resistance. [end recording]

Israeli 'Agents' Cited in Bombings

NC2705081292 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] A source very close to the Hizballah leadership in Tehran told a foreign correspondent that the precise and direct hits the Israeli Air Force made against Hizballah officials' houses in Jibshit and Qabrikha prove that the measures adopted following the assassination of Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi so far failed to curb the Israeli agents within Hizballah ranks in Lebanon.

The source maintained that a committee probably will be formed to investigate the situation and unravel the identity of the sources that conveyed the information to the Israeli Air Force.

AFP cited security sources in Sidon that fundamentalist fighters were killed and 17 others wounded. The AFP correspondent noted that Israeli aircraft attacked five Hizballah positions on the ridges near the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah without attacking residential areas. The correspondent said that the raids destroyed a Hizballah control post, partially damaging houses in 'Ayn Bu Siwar as a result of the exploding shells.

Al-Sulh Inspects South

NC2705085592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh visited Sidon as part of a tour of southern areas, especially those targeted by military attacks in the past days. He is accompanied by Ministers Marwan Hamadah, Sami al-Khatib, 'Abdallah al-Amin, Muhammad Baydun, and Shawqi Fakhuri; Deputies 'Abd-al-Latif al-Zayn and Rafiq Shahin; South Council head Hasan Yusuf; Press Doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki; Lieutenant General Muhammad Qubrusli, director general of the Internal Security forces; and Lieutenant General Nabih Farhat, director general of state security.

Immediately upon arrival, the prime minister, the accompanying delegation, and local officials held a closed meeting. Governor Halim Fayyad welcomed al-Sulh and said the visit was important, because it boosted the southerners' morale, steadfastness, and insistence on keeping their land.

Al-Sulh reciprocated by saying: We have come to the south to stand by our kinfolk and brothers, to acquaint ourselves with their situation, to share their concerns, and to learn from you as local officials the prospects for

helping them and ways of offering this help. Al-Sulh asked the officials to express their views and proposals so that their implementation can be studied.

Health Minister Hamadah emerged from the meeting and met with a delegation of pilgrims from the border strip, who asked him to provide vaccine for the pilgrims before they leave for Mecca. Minister Hamadah then contacted al-Hariri Institute head Bahiy al-Hariri, and the vaccine was arranged.

We just learned that the expanded meeting at Government House in Sidon ended a short while ago. Al-Sulh stated after the meeting: We visited Sidon this morning to ask about our brothers in the south and to share and assist their steadfastness. He added: We discussed all measures required by the government for the steadfastness of our southern brothers in all security, subsistence, social, and health aspects, because the citizen is facing much aggression. We will support our brothers in the south and provide their necessities. I tell you frankly that the government will do everything in its power to meet the just demands. Our kinfolk in the south are defending us and all Arabs in the face of criminal attacks, and we will not spare any efforts to assist them.

Al-Sulh concluded: We asked the UN secretary general to halt the acts of aggression, because some of them occurred in areas where UN forces are located. We will demand pressure to implement Resolution 425.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0915 GMT transmits a voice recording of Prime Minister al-Sulh from al-Nabatiyah during his tour of the south: "Brothers, the government will carry out all its tasks, and the south is its first priority. We will not hesitate to fulfill any just demand from our southern brothers, because they are fighting not only for the south but also for Lebanon and all Arabs. They stood fast in the name of Lebanon and all Arabs, so we should thank them. I also feel I should say that our Army is performing its national duty to the best of its ability. As it participates with the citizens in defending the south, our Army acts as any army would act to best defend its territory and homeland."]

Defense Ministry Denies Helping Habash

NC2605120192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1138 GMT 26 May 92

[Statement Issued by the Defense Ministry's Information Department on 26 May]

[Text] Voice of the South radio claimed that the 6th Brigade is training units from the George Habash [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] organization and the Islamic groups to stage a naval operation.

This is merely cheap sedition and is baseless. It aims at this particular stage to prepare for more hostile operations. All the Lebanese Army's brigades and units—deployed in the south to implement the government decision to impose the legitimate authority over all Lebanese territory—are performing their duty in full, implementing their command's instructions to retaliate appropriately, and are backing the people's steadfastness by being among them.

What the so-called Voice of the South radio attributed to this Army are spiteful lies against the Lebanese Army, the backbone of Lebanon's resurrection.

Further Reportage on Israeli Offensive in South

Israelis Fire on Ba'labakk

NC2605114892 Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 26 May 92

[Report by Salim Yassine]

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, May 26 (AFP) - Israeli warplanes on Tuesday renewed attacks on pro-Iranian Hizballah targets in south Lebanon in successive raids, despite assurances from Israel that it does not seek confrontation with Syria. [passage omitted]

Syrian anti-aircraft guns in eastern Lebanon's al-Biqa' Valley also opened fire Tuesday on Israeli aircraft overflying the city of Ba'labakk—another Hizballah stronghold—but failed to down any planes, an AFP correspondent said.

The Israeli planes swooped down once over Ba'labakk for the first time in two years, he said.

(In Jerusalem, an Israeli military spokesman confirmed the raids.

("Our aircraft bombed the village of Jabal Safi which serves as a staging ground for Hizballah terrorist operations against our northern border," he said, referring to a sector of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

(Earlier, a senior Defense Ministry official told Israeli radio his country did not intend to aggravate tensions with Damascus which could lead to military confrontation.)

On Monday, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Damascus was committed to the Middle East peace process but warned it would respond if Israel imposed war.

His comments to reporters came a day after Israeli officials said a "small war" with Syria could not be ruled out if Damascus failed to prevent the pro-Iranian militants in south Lebanon from attacking Israel.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from Tuesday's attacks, but thick plumes of black smoke were seen.

Rescue squads in Sidon were unable to reach the bombed villages and waited at a distance for the situation to calm down.

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah meanwhile threatened to retaliate if the raids continued against civilians.

Asked if Hizballah would respond with renewed Katyusha rocket attacks against northern Israel, Nasrallah replied: "We won't stay with our arms folded, we'll retaliate but we won't reveal how for the time being. You'll know it when you see it."

Nasrallah said he expected an outbreak of assassination attempts against Hizballah militants but excluded a wide-scale Israeli incursion "as it will cost the Jewish state dearly in troops."

He also called on the Lebanese Government to support the anti-Israeli resistance and not give in to U.S. pressures.

On Friday, the United States urged Lebanon to disarm Hizballah.

On Monday, Israeli aircraft killed four civilians in raids on Hizballah positions and overflew the southern suburbs of Beirut, where Hizballah has support, for the first time in years.

Israeli raids on Lebanon have killed 18 people and wounded 27 others, mostly civilians, since May 21.

Israeli Helicopters Drop Bombs

NC2605115692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Israeli helicopters are conducting wide-scale searches in Iqlim al-Tuffah and are dropping timed and fragmentation bombs.

We have learned that an unspecified number of people fell victim during the raids, particularly in Jarju'. The Red Cross and the civil defense, however, so far have failed to enter the area in view of the continuing shelling and the presence of time bombs.

Israeli F-16s Conduct Raids

NC2605135892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 May 92

[Dispatch from an unidentified radio correspondent in the south—recorded]

[Text] At 1130 today, six Zionist F-16 aircraft conducted 12 raids on the hills of Jarju', Mlita, Jabal Safi, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar, firing about four missiles in each raid. Some 40 missiles were counted and the raids continued until 1240. The aircraft released thermal balloons to deflect antiaircraft fire. The attacks caused heavy material damage but no casualties, according to Islamic Resistance sources. Missile fire from the raiding planes stopped ambulances reaching the target areas. Sources in the area described today's raids and the Zionist artillery shelling as the fiercest in many years.

U.S. Envoy Cited on Possible Attacks

NC2605144892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS cites a Lebanese source saying U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker told Lebanese officials that Washington received Israeli signs that it might violate the 1982 agreement, sponsored by Philip Habib, and attack targets in West Beirut and the southern suburb.

The Kuwaiti paper adds that Crocker hinted Israel might conduct air raids against residential buildings in the southern suburb, where the Hizballah headquarters is located, and he stated that the Israeli Likud bloc will conduct a particular act—possibly full military action—before the parliamentary elections on 23 June. Likud will use the act to pressure the Lebanese Government to halt Islamic resistance operations.

Citing the same Lebanese source, AL-QABAS says Crocker remarked that his government asked Shamir's to exercise self-restraint and urged the Lebanese Government to adopt the necessary measures to prevent armed attacks on the Israeli forces and Lahd's militia.

Israel 'Raking' Border Areas With Guns

NC2605194292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Latest reports from south Lebanon say that Israeli helicopters are raking the security strip border on a large scale, using heavy machine guns and flares.

An AFP correspondent reported that an artillery shell fell in al-Qulaylah in the Tyre area a short time ago, and REUTER reported from the south about Israeli artillery shelling Wadi Habbush and 'Arab Salim at the rate of five shells a minute this evening. Israeli reconnaisance sorties accompanied the bombardment.

Army Takes Precautionary Measures

NC2705053492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Israeli aircraft conducted 11 air raids on Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday. The Lebanese Army units deployed in the region confronted the occupation aircraft. The Israeli forces' concentrated bombardment of the region and fresh reinforcements forced the inhabitants to leave their homes for secure areas.

There was panic on the streets of Jba', 'Ayn Qana, 'Arab Salim, and Kafr Milki during the Israeli raids. A number of people managed to leave the area of Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

A military source said that the Lebanese Army took precautionary measures during the last 24 hours to confront any possible Israeli aggression. The Lebanese Army sent reinforcements to its positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah, including tanks, armored personnel carriers, and rocket launchers.

Meanwhile, the Israeli enemy shelled the liberated areas, including the Jabbur area and the Abu Rashid Hills in Western al- Biqa'. The occupation forces brought fresh reinforcements to Shib'a, al-Habbariyah, Jazzin, and the area overlooking the central sector.

Resistance Group Retaliates

NC2705083292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Israeli forces at 0200 today bombarded Tulin with 15 130-mm shells. Shrapnel hit the wooden houses of the Irish UN contingent in the town, forcing the Irish troops to seek shelter. The shelling wounded one citizen and damaged 10 houses.

An Israeli warplane formation flew over Sidon, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and al-Nabatiyah at 0930 and over Beirut at around 1005.

In retaliation for the Israeli attacks, a resistance group attacked an Israeli position in al-Qantarah, using rockets and machine guns.

Damascus Radio Reports on Israeli Raids in Lebanon

Lebanese Fire on Israeli Fighters

JN2605123892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Southern Lebanon—Israeli warplanes continued their hostile raids on southern Lebanon today. At 1130 today, the Israeli warplanes renewed their raids on the south. Four warplanes made 12 consecutive raids on Iqlim al-Tuffah until 1250. The last of these raids—executed around 1230—targeted the al-Luwayzah hills, Jabal Safi, and the outskirts of 'Ayn Bu-Siwar.

Reports stated that four raids targeted Tallat Mallisah, Jabal Safi, and the 'Ayn Bu-Siwar hills and that the raiding planes fired two rockets in each raid. The reports added that the Lebanese Army fired antiaircraft fire at the raiding planes and that columns of smoke were seen billowing from the bombarded areas.

Daily Criticizes 'Zionist Aggression'

JN2205080892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 May 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH writes about the repeated Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon, saying: The daily attacks against southern Lebanon seek to drive the residents out of that region and consequently turn it into camps for the Israeli Army in preparation for a larger scale attack against the Arab depth [al- 'umq al-'arabi].

The paper adds: All this is happening while the UN troops are doing nothing to check the Zionist aggression as if the Israeli attacks against the Arabs are not considered a violation of the UN Charter.

The paper says the Israeli conduct and the international indifference are due to the fact that major powers are sympathetic to Israel's expansionist plans and schemes. Otherwise, the paper says, how can one explain the multitude of cables sent to the Israeli Government when an Israeli is killed with a stone thrown by a Palestinian child or when a Zionist settler is injured while trying to desecrate our Jerusalem and sacred places in Palestine.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: This conduct puts us as a nation before one option only. We have to prepare ourselves to shoulder our historic responsibility—with our own resources—and seek to achieve justice, because the world organizations and agencies failed to deter Israel's aggression and expansionism at the expense of our land, people, and sacred traditions.

Commentary Views Shamir 'Power Game'

JN2405151892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel's latest military escalation in southern Lebanon followed preparations for a sweeping military operation in that area's occupied section. The operation mounted by the national Lebanese resistance against occupation agents was used by Israel as a pretext to justify the escalation and to issue threats of aggression. The escalation—the word used by the Lebanese in their complaint to the United Nations—is indefensible on any grounds. It was a kind of power game played by Yitzhaq Shamir to advance his Likud's chances in the upcoming Israeli elections. Coinciding as it does with the formation of a new Lebanese Government under Rashid al-Sulh, the escalation must have been calculated to influence Lebanon's internal politics and to frustrate the central authorities in their efforts to press ahead with an economic reform program and reassert state sovereignty in the south.

It is not the first time that Israel has contrived a pretext for aggression against Lebanon. It is common knowledge that an Israeli blueprint for aggression is always on hand and ready for execution. It is, therefore, a case of putting the cart before the horse to lay the blame for escalation at the door of the Lebanese resistance or to demand that it disband. Only a combination of an end to Israeli occupation, compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 425, and a reassertion of state authority throughout Lebanon, can defuse the volatile situation in southern Lebanon. It makes no sense, then, to argue for the resistance to will itself out of existence while occupation continues. Resistance was a reaction to occupation rather than the other way around. Every time the Lebanese look like they are putting their house in order, Israel has stepped in and spoiled things, invariably using direct military action. Thus, no one—either in Lebanon or in the region or beyond—will buy the pretexts advanced by Israel to excuse its military escalation. Under the circumstances, it is up to the international community to rein in Israeli aggressors and do whatever it takes to put an end to Israeli threats and provocations against Lebanon.

It is not acceptable for Lebanon's security, stability, and safety to be held captive to Shamir's domestic calculations or his election fortunes. Neither will it be allowable for Lebanon's security and stability to remain hostage to Israel's ambitions, plans, and calculations. Rather than demand the removal of the effect before the cause, those who would like to see tranquillity return to southern Lebanon should first press for an end to Israel's occupation and military provocations.

Column Views Delay in State Budget Passage

JN2205174192 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 11 May 92 p 4

["Spotlight" column by 'Ali 'Abbud: "What's the Delay With the State Budget?!"]

[Excerpts] Fitting an old pattern, the government tarried in presenting the 1992 state budget for debate in the People's Assembly. Some are saying that relative to last

year's budget, this year's version went to the Assembly rather early and that there is a determination for speedy passage. They point to the fact that an extraordinary session was devoted to that specific purpose. It must be noted, though, that the government was six months behind in submitting the state budget to the Assembly. Constitutionally, the government is required to submit the state budget to the Assembly for passage at least two months before the new fiscal year; in other words, by November. [passage omitted]

We would also like to reiterate that the 1992 budget is at least six months behind schedule and that it will not take effect before June, meaning that it will cover just half the year!

Hopefully, we will be spared such complications in the future. It is also hoped that from this moment forward, every effort will be made so that the 1993 budget is ready for the Assembly's perusal at least two months before the commencement of the new fiscal year. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Uzbek Fighters Said Suspicious of Accord

BK2705041692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0244 GMT 27 May 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, May 27 (AFP)—Uzbek militiamen entrenched in the Afghan capital say they remain loyal to their fierce warlord and are eyeing with deep suspicion an accord calling for their withdrawal from Kabul.

The militiamen from Afghanistan's north hold Kabul's main airport, radio and television centres—positions they took after the end on April 28 of the former Soviet-installed regime.

Now they say their withdrawal, called for in the accord, could trigger a bloodbath.

Some of the 15,000 Uzbek militiamen, operating under six city commanders loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostam, say they will not take orders from Afghanistan's new Islamic government

"If we withdraw there would be confusion in Kabul. There would be a bloodbath.... People would be hanged from trees," said Dostam's top political aide, Brigadier Mohammad Nawab, a militia staff officer in charge of internal security in Kabul.

Armed bandits and rival Islamic soldiers have had a free run in this city in the past few weeks.

The Uzbek's warning came on Tuesday, a day after the interim government's defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud agreed to the demands of holdout Hezb-e-Eslami resistance leader Golboddin Hekmatyar to pull out all northern forces from Kabul as a condition to peace in Afghanistan.

Mas'ud's northern provincial forces aided Dostam's battle-tested Uzbekis to secure Kabul and flush out Hezb guerrillas after the communist regime ceded power last month to the Pakistan-based interim administration.

The alliance between Mas'ud, a legendary mojahedin leader, and the formerly pro-government Uzbeki forces prompted Hekmatyar to launch a military and political offensive for their withdrawal

Mas'ud's security council is also responsible for Kabul's defence.

The Uzbek militia commander said that although Mas'ud and Hekmatyar had signed the wide-ranging peace accord, he would not withdraw his forces from Kabul until he received word from Dostam.

"Mas'ud may be defence minister, but I take orders from General Dostam only," he added.

Dostam, who was recently promoted as general by interim president Sibgatullah Mojaddedi, has rejected a similar verdict handed down by a neutral mojahedin council as "unilateral."

He has yet to react to the accord inked by his ally Mas'ud and his bitter ethnic Pashtun foe, Hekmatyar.

The Uzbek general, whose forces are closely aligned with Mas'ud's Tajik fighters, has not bothered to visit Kabul from his headquarters in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif to meet the new Afghan leaders.

Instead he has sent his six aides to guard Kabul.

"These leaders were not fighting for Islam, they wanted the throne and they have no solidarity, and if we go Hekmatyar's men will come and there would be a massacre," Nawab said.

So far no one has commented on the Hekmatyar-Mas'ud accord, and a Hezb splinter leader, Yunus Khales, has questioned the legal validity of the peace plan.

"We control the airport, the radio and television and we have sufficient manpower to declare General Dostam president.... But we will not do so because we want peace in Afghanistan," said the commander.

The Uzbek militia has been the traditional cutting edge of armies of successive Afghan governments.

Nawab said the Uzbeks would withdraw only when the war ended, adding that the security situation around Kabul had not changed despite the Hekmatyar-Mas'ud accord.

"Hekmatyar's people are still lurking around the city," he added.

Uzbek fighters, who rarely take prisoners, are given a wide berth here by Pashtun and Shiite warriors.

Hekmatyar has said he would never join the interim government as long as Dostam's men remained in the city.

Hekmatyar "will invade when we leave," said Nawab, a favourite staff officer of Dostam, who controls 160,000 fighting Uzbeks.

The militia commander denied allegations of looting and killings by his men saying it was a "propaganda" by Hekmatyar to discredit the "country's finest fighting force."

"We believe in desert justice.... We silently kill when we catch our men stealing," Nawab said.

"We caught one of our colonels, controlling 20,000 men, stealing from a shop in Maehar, and we tied him behind a tank and dragged him till he died," Nawab said.

Iran Sends Unsolicited Aid to Herat

BK2705120492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 27 (AFP)—Iran has sent unsolicited aid to the inhabitants of Afghanistan's westernmost province despite requests from Kabul that all assistance be cleared by the interim government here, diplomats said Wednesday.

Two Iranian helicopters carrying food and medicines landed in the western province of Herat Tuesday and distributed the aid among residents, they said.

The diplomats said the latest Iranian airlift was carried out without prior clearance from the interim government here.

A visiting Iranian delegation recently brought food, medicines and cooking utensils to Kabul and handed them over to the interim government for distribution.

The government in Tehran backs minority Shiite Muslims in Afghanistan in their bid for proportional representation in the government which took power April 28 after toppling the communist regime here.

The Shiites claim they account for some 25 percent of the population of some 14 million though no reliable census figures exist.

Mojaddedi Meets Pakistani Labor Minister

LD2405173992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met with Mr. Mohammad Ejazul Haq, labor and manpower minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at Gol Khana Palace, the state presidency headquarters, this afternoon.

At the meeting, which was also attended by esteemed Mawlawi Abdul Manana Abed and the leadership of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Afghanistan and Mr. Feda Yunos, charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Ejazul Haq, on behalf of himself and the State and people of Pakistan, conveyed congratulations on the victory of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan. He said: As we have helped our Afghan brothers in their sacred jehad, we are ready to render all-round assistance to the reconstruction of Afghanistan also.

Esteemed Professor Mojaddedi then expressed gratitude for the goodwill expressed by the state and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the assistance rendered by them during the 14-year struggle of the people of Afghanistan. He added that with the formation of an Islamic state in Afghanistan the government favors the further strengthening of this friendship and cooperation.

Rabbani Visits Baghlan, Praises Victory

LD2605045792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Leadership Council, has arrived in Pol-e Khomri on a visit to Baghlan Province to meet the people of the province. BIA reports that Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and his entourage were warmly received upon their arrival in Pol-e Khomri by jehadi commanders, officers, and soldiers of Armed Forces units in the province; heads of state departments and institutions; teachers and students; and thousands of the faithful residents of the city. The report adds: Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani participated in a meeting with thousands of the people of the city. At the start of the meeting some verses of the Koran were read; Esteemed Abdol Hai Haqbin, Jamiat-e Eslami leader in Baghlan Province, then spoke on the issue [as heard] on behalf of the others and promised any kind of self-sacrifice to serve our Muslim and faithful compatriots.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani then delivered a lengthy speech on the heroic struggles of the heroic and brave Afghan nation against the former Soviet Union and [words indistinct] regime. He drew their attention to the great tasks and responsibilities which face our Muslim nation and our afflicted country. He also asked them to maintain unity and solidarity for the protection of independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity and to prepare themselves to serve their compatriots and to reconstruct the country. The meeting was ended by prayers for the good of the people.

Bangladesh

Minister on Zia India Visit, Rohingya Refugees

BK2305165992 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia goes to New Delhi on a three-day state visit to India on Tuesday at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. She will be accompanied by a 10-member delegation which includes Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman and two members of parliament, Akbar Hussain and Rozi Kabir.

Briefing newsmen on the forthcoming visit to Dhaka [as heard] this afternoon, the foreign minister said it is the beginning of the new strategy which will lead to the solution of outstanding issues between the two countries. He said during the visit both sides will exchange views on international, regional, and bilateral issues of common interest. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said the visit in a sense is a goodwill one to generate a positive impetus not only to solve bilateral problems but also to find new and innovative avenues to strengthen relations between Bangladesh and India. Replying to a question, he said we are going to India with an open mind.

During the talks, thrust will be given on bilateral issues. He mentioned issues like Chakma refugees, Tin Bigha [Corridor] transfer, and land and maritime boundary demarcation may also figure prominently in the talks. Regarding water-sharing issue with India, the foreign minister said political goodwill is required to solve the issue and the forthcoming visit is expected to generate goodwill leading to the solution of the outstanding problem between the two countries.

In reply to a question on the Rohingya refugees, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said they will be repatriated to their home in a secure and peaceful manner. Provisions are there in the bilateral agreement with Myanmar that the Rohingyas will be rehabilitated in their home and will not be persecuted further. He hoped that the Rohingyas will be going home shortly.

Meanwhile, the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Mr. K. Raghunath called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia today. The new High Commissioner Mr. Raghunath conveyed to the prime minister the best wishes and felicitation of Indian President R. Venkataraman and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. He said people of India are eagerly waiting to extend a warm and fraternal welcome to Begum Zia. The prime minister congratulated Mr. Raghunath on his appointment as the high commissioner to Bangladesh. She hoped the democratic governments in Bangladesh and India will go forward in solving different problems through discussion.

Burma, Refugees Said Holding Key to Repatriation

BK2205093392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0410 GMT 22 May 92

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, May 22 (AFP)—An estimated 250,000 Burmese refugees and the Rangoon regime hold the key to a stalled repatriation effort over which host country Bangladesh has little influence, officials and analysts say.

"Burma is sticking to its stand of not permitting the UNHCR (U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees) on its side of the border to monitor repatriation and without this you can understand what it means," a senior Bangladeshi official told AFP Thursday.

He said it had turned out to be difficult to persuade the mostly illiterate refugees, known as Rohingyas, to go home.

"We are aware of activities of the aid agencies in hampering the process and we are investigating it," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A university professor, also asking for anonymity, said the ball was now in Burma's court with Bangladesh largely an onlooker, even though the international community has "at least in words" sought to end the crisis.

Many of the Rohingyas, the name given to Muslims from Buddhist-majority Burma, have fled to Bangladesh alleging atrocities by Burmese troops.

"The impasse can be broken if Burma agrees to a UNHCR presence on their side of the border, which I think is difficult for the moment because of continuing atrocity reports," he said.

A senior Bangladeshi official who participated in Sunday's Bangladesh-Burma talks said "I can't say what is going to happen in our May 25 meeting," but added that Burma's stand on repatriation had been an obstacle to a peaceful resolution of the issue.

Local refugee commissioner Shaheedul Islam, however, said he was hopeful of fixing a repatriation date in the coming meeting, while acknowledging that the situation was "like walking on a tightrope." In the meantime, relief officials have expressed concern about heavy rains or storms which could cause an outbreak of disease.

A senior Bangladesh foreign ministry official implied the Rohingyas have complicated negotiations. He said their earlier demands were for guarantees of safety on their return but now they wanted Burma's military rulers to hand power over to pro-democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi before they return.

"Bangladesh is not responsible for such internal political matters," the official complained. "Let them go and settle their political problems in their own country."

Officials said that with international aid now only trickling in, it was difficult for Bangladesh, an impoverished south Asian country, to bear the economic burden of the refugees for long.

An UNHCR spokeswoman said that of the 27.5 million dollar aid appeal made by High Commissioner Sadako Ogata two months ago, only 13.9 million has so far been committed.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports say Buddhists have settled in areas where the Rohingyas lived before fleeing to Bangladesh and have staged demonstrations against repatriation.

Rohingya leaders in the southeastern Bangladesh city of Cox's Bazar allege that the Burmese government is backing the demonstrations. They also charge Rangoon with instituting a "human barrier policy," under which Buddhists from other parts of Burma were to be settled in 40 townships near the Bangladesh border.

Heavy Rain, Wind Add to Suffering of Rohingyas

BK2205161192 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The sufferings of Rohingya refugees sheltered in Cox's Bazaar have increased because of heavy rains and gusty winds for consecutive three days. Local met [meteorological] office recorded 52 millimeter rainfall and 62

km gusty wind an hour during the past three days. Doctors attending Rohingya refugees at different camps at Ukhia, Ramu and Teknaf said that children and old men have been attacked by cough and fever. More than 85,000 refugees have been living under open sky.

India

Further Reportage Following Abduction of Diplomat

Talks With Pakistan 'Called Off'

BK2605161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] India has called off the sixth round of foreign secretary level talks with Pakistan scheduled to begin on Monday [1 June]. New Delhi has said that the atmosphere between the two countries has been vitiated following the torture of a senior Indian diplomat in Islamabad on Sunday [24 May]. Special arrangements are being made to evacuate the diplomat from Islamabad. Announcing this an External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the government decided to call for the postponement of talks as there was no rational reaction from Pakistan so far to the brutal treatment meted out to the Indian diplomat. He said New Delhi had waited for over 36 hours, but statements emanating from Pakistan Government sources show that there is no regret or any remorse for the blatant violation of international law. Contrary to this, Islamabad has continued to indulge in spreading wild allegations about the conduct of the diplomat. In these circumstances New Delhi has to take into account the unreasonable attitude of the Pakistan Government toward building meaningful bilateral relations. These have outraged public sentiments in India on the episode. He said New Delhi hopes that the talks will be rescheduled when the climate improves.

The spokesman said that the arrangements to evacuate the diplomat include a special flight with a full medical team, including a cardiologist and a physiotherapist on board. The Indian mission in Islamabad has been asked to get the clearance for the special flight from the Pakistan Government.

Spokesman on 'Postponement' of Talks

BK2705102792 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0916 GMT 27 May 92

["Spokesman's statement regarding Govt [Government] of India's decision to postpone Indo-Pak foreign secretary level talks which were scheduled for 1-3 June, 1992"]

[Text] While briefing newsmen, spokesman stated that Govt of India have decided to call for a postponement of foreign secretary level talks with Pakistan which were scheduled from 1-3 of June, 1992. He said that we have waited for over 36 hours to see if there was any rational reaction to the blatant violation of international law and diplomatic conduct that has taken place in Islamabad. Regrettably, the statements emanating from various sources in Pakistan Government show no sense of regret nor any remorse for the brutal treatment meted out to a senior Indian diplomat; on the contrary, the Pakistan Government have continued to indulge in making wild and unfounded allegations about the conduct of a senior member of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. In these circumstances, the government of India could not but take into account the unreasonable attitude of the Pakistan Government which betrayed no desire to move forward in building our bilateral relationship in a meaningful manner. We also had to respect outraged public sentiment in India. This unfortunate incident has vitiated the atmosphere. We hope to be able to reschedule the talks when the climate improves and some semblance of normalcy is restored. We have been monitoring the medical reports coming in from Islamabad about the condition of our senior Indian diplomat, who was tortured and brutally treated by the authorities in Islamabad, ever since he returned home from the police station. We are concerned that Mr. Mittal's condition remains serious. Government of India have, therefore, decided to make special arrangements to evacuate our official from Islamabad. The special arrangements included a special aircraft with a full medical team on board, including a cardiologist and a physiotherapist. As a step towards finalising these arrangements we have asked through our mission in Islamabad for special flight clearance for this aircraft.

Pakistan Turns Down Request

BK2705091692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Pakistan has turned down New Delhi's request to allow an Indian aircraft to land in Islamabad to evacuate the senior Indian diplomat, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, who was tortured by Pakistan police on Sunday. Giving this information, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that India had sought permission to send the aircraft on a humanitarian mission. He said Mr. Mittal is not in a position to fly by a commercial aircraft following the brutal treatment meted out to him. The Indian request was conveyed to Islamabad yesterday seeking permission for landing a special aircraft with a full medical team aboard as the diplomat's condition was serious. But, the spokesman said that Islamabad has not conceded to the request.

Protests Held at Pakistani Embassy

BK2605145492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Various political parties and organizations have held demonstrations in front of Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi today against the torture of the Indian counselor officer, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, in Islamabad by the Pakistani intelligence agency. The demonstrators carrying banners and placards handed over memoranda to the officials of the embassy. They also burned an effigy of the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif.

Spokesman on U.S. Congressman's Legislation

BK2705114792 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0916 GMT 27 May 92

["Spokesman's response to a question on newspaper reports regarding legislation in U.S. Congress introduced by Dan Burton; dated 25th May 1992"]

[Text] Replying to a question regarding Congressman Dan Burton's introduction of legislation in the U.S. Congress, in which he has suggested that five laws in India, including the TADA [Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act], the J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] Public Safety Act and three other special pieces of legislation in India, be withdrawn, failing which he has suggested that the U.S. development assistance to India be suspended, the spokesman stated that this is not the first time that Mr. Dan Burton has attempted to introduce such legislation in the Congress. Dan Burton's attitudes and predilections are well known. The financial support that he receives for his electoral activity is also well known; he is supported by elements related to the Kashmir America Forum and the Khalistani lobby. The facts as they have been presented are selective and have consistently overlooked the objectives of the legislations in question and the motivation behind Government of India bringing such legislation on to our statute books. The tendentious manner in which the facts have been presented, blatantly ignore the daily killings of police officials, public servants and judges. They also ignore the fact that the ordinary judicial process in these areas have been undermined by terrorist violence, by the intimidation and killing of witnesses and judges. Since this development has been financed by vested interests, who are working in a direction which is detrimental to our national interest, we have taken serious note of it and we have instructed our missions in the United States to take immediate action to portray the situation in its proper light and to bring to notice of congressmen and other opinion makers the true facts.

Russian Rocket Engine Supply 'Assured'

BK2505155392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, Professor U.R. Rao today said Russia has assured India that it will honor the contract for the transfer of cryogenic rocket technology despite American opposition. Talking to newsmen at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center at Tumba, he said if any difficulty arises India will work out its contigency plan.

Bangladesh Premier Arrives in New Delhi 26 May

BK2605080292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a three-day state visit. She was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and his cabinet colleagues. During a brief chat with newspersons at the airport, Begum Zia said that her country wants very good relations with India. She said with democratically elected governments functioning in both the countries, the cooperation between Delhi and Dhaka will be strengthened. Later, the Bangladesh prime minister was given a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house].

Refugees, Water Sharing Discussed

BK2605163692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to evolve a comprehensive and permanent plan for sharing river waters. It was also agreed that discussions to achieve this should take place within a stipulated timeframe. The matter came up for discussions in New Delhi today during the first round of talks between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia. Mr. Rao assured Begum Khaleda that during the interim period some arrangements could be worked out to ensure that the people of Bangladesh are not put to hardship. The two leaders discussed several bilateral and other issues, including the problem of the Chakma refugees and Tin Bigha [corridor]. Mr. Rao made it clear to his Bangladesh counterpart that India does not want a single Chakma refugee to remain on Indian soil. On the other hand, it expects a conducive atmosphere be created to help them return in batches. Begum Khaleda Zia agreed to the suggestion that logistic (?squads) can be worked out and the Bangladesh officials can visit the refugees to instill confidence in them. About the safety and protection, the Bangladesh prime minister also mentioned the long-standing Tin Bigha issue is nearing final solution. Mr. Rao hoped that the agreement to implement the accord on 26 June will take place as planned. Both the prime ministers agreed that the interests of the two countries there should be frequent contacts at the foreign ministers and official levels and senior officials should be able to meet at short notice to avoid any delay in solving bilateral issues.

The foreign secretaries of the two counties also held discussions and covered issues, including the problems of immigrants and ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam]. The second round of talks between the two prime ministers will be held tomorrow.

Rao, Zia Banquet Speeches Reported

BK2705083292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] India and Bangladesh have called for evolving a comprehensive approach to resolve bilateral problems in a spirit of understanding. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, in New Delhi last evening, the prime

minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, said the two countries should take a dispassionate look at the issues for resolving them to mutual satisfaction. He emphasized the need for diversifying Indo-Bangladesh relations in the fields of trade and economy, as well as industrial and agricultural cooperation. Mr. Rao assured Begum Zia that New Delhi is keen to work out an equitable and long-term plan for sharing of river waters.

The Bangladesh prime minister, in her speech, recalled the age-old ties between the two countries and stressed the need for strengthening them further. She said the purpose of her visit is not only to consolidate bilateral relations but also to expand them.

Governor on 'Significant Improvement' in Kashmir

BK2705082692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, has said that the situation in the Kashmir Valley has shown significant improvement as security forces have successfully checkmated the designs of the militants and forces across the border. Participating in a program of the Srinagar Doordarshan [television] last evening, he said the main feature of the present situation is the change in the mood of the people who have started coming out to condemn the activities of the militants. He said the government will open a political process in the state with the cooperation of the people and the political parties.

Iran

Tehran Reports Iraqi Attack on Marshlands

LD2305173592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq announced that the forces of the Iraqi regime launched a fresh attack against the marshland regions south of al-'Amarah province this morning. The forces of the Iraqi regime prepared for this attack two days ago by bringing the marshlands south of al-'Amarah province under bombardment by deploying their aircraft, helicopters, and heavy artillery units. According to the Supreme Assembly, heavy clashes are currently in progress between the regime's military and the popular forces in the marshlands regions of al-'Amarah province. The clashes caused the martyrdom or injury of a number of civilian residents of these regions.

Source: U.S. Supported Attack in Iraq

LD2405182892 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), May 24, IRNA—An informed Iraqi source said here today that on Saturday several fighter bombers and gunship helicopters of the Baghdad government strafed some locations in southern Iraq, killing an unknown number of civilians near the marshlands in the cities of al-'Amarah, Nasiriyah and Basra.

He claimed that on the same day an American fighter bomber offered support to the Iraqi Air Force flying over southern Iraq and bombed several locations in Bilayla, and al-Nakhila near the marshlands in Maysan Province of Iraq.

The same source said despite heavy attacks by infantry and air support by the Iraqi Armed Forces, the government troops were yet too far from their goal of taking full control of those areas.

He noted that large groups of Iraqis in foreign countries last week had staged demonstrations in condemnation of the military attacks against civilians in southern Iraq, calling on the United Nations to step in for curbing the unprovoked bloodshed in Iraq.

Southern Iraq is the main concentration center of the Shiite Arab Muslims of Iraq who form over 60 percent of the country's population.

In related news, a group of students Basra University have reportedly published exposes against the ruling Ba'athist government. Many students of the university were arrested by government soldiers in connection with the secret leaflets last week, said the sources.

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Sarhadi Extradition

Swiss, French Envoys Summoned

LD2605193192 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry here today separately summoned the Swiss and French ambassadors to sound protest over their attitude towards Iranian citizen Zia Sarhadi.

The "unjust and illegal" measures of the Swiss Government was condemned by Foreign Ministry Director General for Western Europe Hamid Reza Asefi in his meeting with Swiss Ambassador Anton Greber.

Greber was also told that the "one-sided attitude" of the Swiss Government towards Sarhadi, after his innocence was approved, would influence Tehran's relations with Bern in all areas.

The Swiss Federal Court today ordered the handing over of Sarhadi to France.

Later the French Ambassador to Tehran Hubert Colin de Verdiere was summoned by the Foreign Ministry, and protested over the role of the French Government in this regard.

The innocence of Sarhadi was made clear to de Verdiere, with stress on the Iranian national's "immediate" release.

[Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French at 1800 GMT on 26 May 92 reports that "the Iranian Zeyhal Sarhadi, suspected of being involved in the murder of Shahpur Bakhtiar, has just been charged by Judge Bruguiere with complicity in murder. Sarhadi has been imprisoned provisionally. He was extradited from Switzerland to France today five months after his arrest outside the Iranian Embassy in Bern."]

Daily: Ties Could Deteriorate

NC2705095492 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 27 (AFP) - A pro-government newspaper on Wednesday warned that Tehran's ties with France and Switzerland could deteriorate following Bern's extradition to Paris of an Iranian wanted in the murder of former Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar.

The English-language TEHRAN TIMES, which generally reflects the views of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, quoted "observers" who said the extradition of Zia' Sarhaddi "will have an adverse impact on overall Iran-French relations."

The daily noted that ties between Tehran and Paris "recently saw an upward trend both in terms of politics, trade and economy."

"Iran-Swiss relations are not as good as those between Iran and France and Sarhaddi's departure could have an adverse impact on bilateral ties between Tehran and Paris," the newspaper said.

Iran on Tuesday reacted angrily to Sarhaddi's surrender by the Swiss authorities to France and demanded his immediate release, according to the official IRNA news agency.

Hamid Reza 'Asefi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Western Europe desk, summoned the French and Swiss ambassadors in Iran, told them that Sarhaddi was innocent and described the Swiss extradition as a "biased" move.

Sarhaddi, 25, who is accused by France of involvement in the August 1991 murder of Bakhtiar and a bodyguard near Paris, was arrested in Switzerland on December 23, 1991, upon a French request.

French officials charged that "he had helped in preparing the crime and in the flight of the killers to Switzerland."

A Swiss federal court made no ruling on Sarhaddi's guilt or innocence, but agreed to his extradition "for complicity in murder."

Sarhaddi was handed over to French authorities Tuesday at the Basel-Mulhouse Airport. Court sources said he has been indicted for "complicity in the murder" of Bakhtiar.

He was temporarily incarcerated until Friday, when a decision on whether to release him or extend his detention would be taken, the French sources said.

The pro-radical newspaper ABRAR, the only other daily to comment on the Sarhaddi affair, accused the Swiss authorities of undertaking an "unfriendly and hostile against Iran." [sentence as received] "The Iranian people will never forget this plot," ABRAR said.

Joint Projects With FAO Said Underway

LD2205183892 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—Twenty-five joint projects are underway in Iran in collaboration with the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization], said Secretary-General of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Edouard Saouma here today.

In an interview at the end of FAO's 21st regional conference for the Near East in Tehran, he said that an accord has been reached with Iran's Ministry of Agriculture for Cooperation in sugar and sorghum production.

According to Saouma, agriculture in the Third World countries faces acute difficulties and adverse conditions, mainly due to the absence of a "guaranteed price" for agricultural produce. In the Third World farmers need government assistance in order to survive, he said.

The developing countries will succeed when they can raise the price of their produce in international market, Saouma elaborated.

On the role of women in the agricultural sector, he said FAO has already offered plans on rural development in which women's active participation has been considered keeping in view the special characteristics of the Iranian women.

Saouma announced that FAO in line with its policy of expansion of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, is to set up a special bureau in Tehran.

The 4-day FAO regional conference in Tehran was attended by agriculture ministers and offcials from 26 West Asian and North African countries.

Editorial Views Relations With Pakistan, Turkey

NC2205165592 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 May 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Ashkhabad Meeting, An Opportune Moment"]

[Text] The presence of the Iranian President, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at the summit meeting of the Central Asian states will offer the other participating heads of state a unique opportunity for reviewing bilateral ties, alongside of the general meetings.

In view of the recent developments in Iran's relations with Pakistan and Turkey, political observers in the region believe the meetings between President Rafsanjani and Nawaz Sharif and Suleyman Demirel will be of exceptional significance. Actually the foremost topic in the regional political circles would seem to be the question of whether Iran's political honeymoon with Pakistan and Turkey has already come to an end.

In our view the answer to that question should be sought for in Islamabad and Ankara, and not in Tehran. This view is borne out by the fact that Iran has engaged in no significant alterations in its foreign policy movement or maneuvres with respect to these two countries.

Iran's bilateral ties with the two countries are not quite on the same standing, and although in the past few days a certain faction in Pakistan have suggested, on the instigation of outside influences, that Pakistan should conduct a close rivalry with Iran over the issue of Afghanistan, political observers still do not consider that the relations between Iran and Pakistan have reached a disconcerting stage. It is believed that the common points of view between the two countries is still sufficient for any ambiguity or misunderstanding to be resolved in a meeting between the heads of Iran and Pakistan, if such indeed is the intentions of the leaders of the two countries.

On the other hand relations between Iran and Turkey have reached such a stage as to cause concern. Iran has been pursuing a stable policy towards Turkey with almost no fluctuations. However, the presence of several centers of power in Ankara, and also because of the influence of the Western countries and in particular the U.S. in those centers, foreign policy leaders in Turkey have been faced with grave difficulties to such an extent that many of the decisions and measures adopted in Turkey against Iran in the past few months have not been to the best national interests of Turkey.

In case Demirel fails to convince President Rafsanjani of the rationality of the recent Turkish measures, and if Turkey is not prepared to revise its policies towards Iran, then a very valuable opportunity will have been lost, and the tension between the two countries could reach such a stage that it may not be possible to arrange for a next summit meeting even in a third country.

Editorial Comments on Events in Tajikistan

NC2205165992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 May 92 p 2

[Editorial: "High Hopes for a Lasting Stability"]

[Text] The Martyrs' Square in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, was quickly emptied of crowds of demonstrators. This followed the conciliation reached between Tajikistan President, Rakhman Nabiyev and his opponents after lengthy negotiations.

Although Nabiyev's government has agreed to share its power with the opposition, it should not be forgotten that certain elements in the governing faction are against any concessions that are made to the opposing groups, and will attempt to restore things to their original state at the earliest opportunity.

All the same, the peaceful settlement of the Tajikistan problem is welcome news for the friends of this newly independent country, and particularly for Iran where the leaders and political observers followed the events in Dushanbe with great concern.

As a matter of fact, Tajikistan, one of the republics in Central Asia that has been kept in a backward state and has recently cast off Soviet domination, has many cultural and linguistic affinities with Iran. As such it is quite natural that the Muslim population of this republic should look to Iranian assistance in the implementation of their programs of economic revival. Unfortunately the fierce struggle for power, which has been raging in this republic for the past months, deprived the country's leaders of the stability in which they could shape a well-thought-out foreign policy. It is also sad to note that Tajikistan's President, Rakhman Nabiyev, an old communist, and his comrades failed to appreciate the depth of transformations that had been brought about in the former Soviet Union. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the events of the past fifty days in Tajikistan have proven to the Tajik leaders the necessity for harmonizing their policies with the cultural and political aspirations of the people.

The present leaders of Tajikistan should take advantage of the conciliatory mood that has obtained [as published] in the country to resolve difficulties and settle differences. Otherwise in the ensuing clash of powers among the various factions in the country, the people of Tajik will be the ultimate losers. And it is worth drawing attention to the fact that seven decades of communist domination has left Tajikistan a poor and backward country, and that the outbreak of a civil war will have no effect other than squandering the already limited resources of this new republic.

Khomeyni Cited on 'Zionist' Attacks in Lebanon

LD2605111492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpts] Hojjat-ol Eslam Val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni addressed a gathering of thousands of Basiji sisters from the Basij resistance quarters of Tehran's Guards Corps by the immaculate shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning. [passage omitted]

In part of his speech, he described the dastardly attacks of the Zionist regime against the southern Lebanese Muslims as a sign of that regime's helplessness vis-a-vis the Lebanese Hezbollah's struggles for justice. He said: The silence of the Islamic countries in the face of the

shameless atrocities of the Zionist regime, their pursuit of the negotiation path, and their payment of lip service to imperialism and Zionisism will bring them nothing other than humiliation and eternal treachery. We once again annouce that the illegitimate occupier al-Qods regime understands no language other than that of force and armed struggle. The only way to continue the struggle for justice of the Muslims of Lebanon, Palestine, and the occupied territory is through armed jihad.

Concluding his remarks, Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: The path to justice is the path of the party of God. We consider any compromise with the usurper Israel as doomed to failure and any policy that legitimizes the Zionist regime as treachery against Islamic and revolutionary aspirations.

Editorial Views Steps for Security, Stability

NC2205175892 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 May 92 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Afghanistan—Security for the People and Punishment for the Criminals"]

[Text] Afghanistan is going through a sensitive and decisive time. Even though the situation is moving toward stability and tranquillity, this can only be ensured if the jihad leaders act according to the wishes of the long-suffering Afghan people and if their position does not tempt the United States or others to interfere in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

Immediately after the downfall of the old regime, when it was not yet clear who controlled the government, much was heard about the fate of Najibollah—the criminal head of the Kabul regime—and about his leaving the country or being pardoned.

This uncertainty could have done irreparable damage to the prestige and credibility of the jihad forces in the eyes of the Afghan nation.

Now that some time has passed since establishing order in Kabul and the anxiety of the first days has abated somewhat, jihad leaders insist on equitable positions.

Borhanoddin Rabbani, head of the Leadership Council of Afghanistan, ruled out pardoning Najibollah and the criminal pawns of the Kabul regime, saying that the "general amnesty that has been declared does not include Najibollah and those involved in massacres, abduction, and torture. This is a just and logical policy. Under this policy, they stressed that the criminal leaders of the Kabul regime will soon be tried by an Islamic court and that any sentence by the court will be carried out. [no end quotes as published]

There are more serious problems threatening the Afghan people. They stem from the offensive approach that Hekmatyar's group adopted against the provisional jihad government. During the past few days, missile attacks by Hekmatyar's forces caused heavy casualties in Kabul. The Afghan people struggled to liberate their country, giving more than 1 million martyrs. They can accept the loss of these martyrs, because they paid the price for fighting the enemies of humanity, for the independence and rule of Islam, and for their freedom and glory. But they cannot accept or justify even one death in fighting among jihad forces. They cannot tolerate the deaths of their dear ones on the dawn of the Afghan nation's victory.

The head of the Afghan Leadership Council threatened to try all those who disrupt peace and tranquillity, who obstruct the people's lives, or fight the new Islamic rule. This new position is a serious warning to Hekmatyar and his faction.

Hekmatyar has not shown great flexibility. He wants to portray himself as more revolutionary than those who were not ready to shed one drop of blood to liberate Kabul. There may be those who do not understand what is going on in Kabul, so the jihad leaders should keep their people informed.

The people supported the jihad forces at the most critical moments. Certainly they have the right to be informed of what is going on behind the scenes in Kabul. This way they can become more confidently devoted to their bloody revolution, remain mentors of the Islamic revolution, and rest assured that there is no compromise, indiscretion, or—God forbid—treachery. By speaking to the people, the jihad leaders will show that they have nothing to hide, which will neutralize the efforts of infiltrating elements that seek to instill pessimism toward the jihad leaders.

At any rate, if the long-suffering people and the esteemed families of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan do not see the bodies of Najibollah and the criminals of the Kabul regime riddled with the bullets of the jihad forces, their impatient and pain-ridden hearts will not be able to rest.

The trial and punishment of the criminals who ruled Afghanistan for 14 years, spilled the blood of an oppressed nation, and helped the savage occupiers commit torture and massacres is the first step toward true stability and security in Afghanistan.

Kordestan Party Plenum Issues Statement

NC2205190492 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 May 92

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan on the Central Committee Plenum dated 19 May 1991—place not given]

[Text] Dear compatriots, O combatant people of Kordestan: The Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan reports that between 26 and 28 Ordibehesht 1371 [16-18 May 1992], the second plenum of the Central Committee elected during the party's Ninth Congress was held.

At the beginning of the plenum's activities, Secretary General Comrade Dr. Sa'id presented a brief report about the activities of the Political Bureau in implementing the duties set out by the Ninth Congress and by the previous plenum. Each member of the Political Bureau then reported about the activities of the various branches of the party that fall under their responsibility. After comprehensive discussions and constructive proposals about how to better implement the party's affairs, all reports were approved.

The second plenum expressed their satisfaction about the timely implementation of Ninth Congress's decisions and issued useful advice to the Political Bureau about the duties that have not been completed so far. In this part of the plenum's activities, the Central Committee clarified the party's policy and future modus operandi by considering the current situation in Iran and in the region and issued the necessary directives to the various party branches, especially to town committees.

The second part of the plenum's activities was devoted to political problems and to a study of recent developments and (?economic) conditions in the country. The comrade secretary general analyzed the situation following the discussions about which the topics brought up in this analysis began.

In studying Iran's domestic situation, the plenum described the elections for the fourth term of the clerical Majles as a (?debatable) issue, and concluded that the participation of a small number of people in the contrived elections, the fact that a run-off round was needed for half of the Majles deputies, and the small number of votes cast for the so-called elected deputies are all signs of the people's disgust and of the fact that the Iranian masses are separating themselves from the clerical regime more and more each day.

Within this context, the participants agreed unanimously that even though Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his clique have been able to throw their rivals out of the arena and form a Majles uniformly on their side, these elections will not alter the clerical regime's retrogressive character. They will not be able to work miracles and save Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government from economic and social problems.

The plenum conducted detailed and fruitful discussions about recent developments in Iraqi Kurdistan, especially about the Kurdish parliamentary elections. The Central Committee Plenum asked that the various elements of the Kurdish movement in Iraq to display a high degree of responsibility, to respect the outcome of the elections, and—more important yet—to take into consideration the domestic and foreign conditions as much as possible in solving the Kurdish problem in Iraqi Kurdistan so that the Kurdish people in Iraq can achieve their rights and freedoms through peaceful means and not have to face death, destruction, and homelessness once again.

The Central Committee Plenum condemned the clerical regime's subversive policy and hypocritical position about this issue and expressed hopes that the leaders of the Kurdish movement in Iraq will display full alertness vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic's plots and will not allow this inhuman regime to treacherously interfere in Iraqi Kurdistan or to impose an unwanted situation about the Iraqi Kurdish brothers.

Long live the struggle of the Kurdish people and of the other Iranian people for their freedom and human rights. Down with despotism and reaction.

[Signed] The Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan, Political Bureau
[Date] 29 Ordibehesht 1371 [19 May 1992].

Editorial Views Objectives of Kurdistan Elections

NC2205165892 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 May 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Dubious Objectives of Kurdistan Elections"]

[Text] Simultaneous with the general elections in Iraqi Kurdistan, which is to be held on Tuesday after a two-day delay, Western forces stationed in the northern regions of that country, have been called to the alert to counter possible military moves by the Iraqi government designed to disrupt the elections.

At the same time the Iraqi Government declared the elections illegal and its results invalid. Some 1.1 million Kurds will be voting to choose a paramount leader of the Kurdish resistance movement and elect a 100-member parliament for the rebel-held area.

Although Kurdish leaders have announced in their recent interviews that the elections are being held only within the framework of internal autonomy for the Kurdistan region, their claims can not be acceptable for Iraq's neighbors. The problems of the Kurdish population in the northern Iraq should only be resolved on sound principles and with reference to the national sovereignty of Iraq, and not through regional elections sponsored by the U.S.

Unfortunately the irresponsible leadership by the Baghdad regime in recent years has not only caused irreparable damage to the national interests of Iraq, but it has also caused innumerable problems for that country's neighbors.

The Iraqi Kurds should realize that this type of move, whose objectives are not yet clear for Iraq's neighbors, will not solve their problems. Quite frankly, if the present elections and its results are meant to provide solutions for the internal problems of Iraqi Kurdistan created by the economic and political sanctions imposed by the Baghdad regime, then it could be justifiable. But if it is to serve as a preliminary stage to the political disintegration of Iraq, then it will not be acceptable by Tehran under any circumstances.

For the moment, Tehran, Ankara and Damascus are following the events in the northern Iraq with great concern. They are principally concerned about the destabilizing effects of the recent developments in northern Iraq, and their unpredictable outcome which could only benefit countries not directly involved in the region.

War Games Commemorating Khorramshahr Begin

LD2205223792 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Jofayr (Khuzestan), May 22, IRNA—"Beyt ol-Moqaddas" war games started on a grand scale in this southwestern province today to commemorate the liberation anniversary of Khorramshahr port city from Iraqi Ba'athist occupation (May 24, 1982).

Starting with the code-word "Ya 'Ali Ibn-Abi Taleb"—reference to the first imam of the prophet's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] infallible household—the 3-day maneuvres will see in action three armoured and mechanized divisions, four infantry brigades as well as support forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

Despite rainfall, the day saw Iranian forces under extensive fire cover of their own forces stage attack on the hypothetical enemy, through minefields and other obstacles, supported by aircraft which targetted their predetermined positions.

The first phase of the war games were watched by Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Headquarters, Hasan Firoz-Abadi, commander in chief of the IRGC, Mohsen Reza'i, and other senior officers.

During the historic Beyt ol-Moqaddas operations which liberated Khorramshahr, the Muslim combatants captured almost 20,000 Iraqi aggressors. In addition, 16,000 other Ba'athists were either killed or injured.

Nepal

Activists Arrested for Defying Rally Ban Order

BK2305130692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Kathmandu, May 23 (AFP)—Twenty people, including former Justice Minister Radhe Shyam Kamaro, were arrested in Pokhara City on Saturday for defying a local ban on demonstrations, official sources said.

The arrests came two days after a clash between Nepali Congress and communist activists in which one person died and 14 others were seriously injured, according to a police source.

The source said Kamaro and 19 others were campaigning for their political organization, the National Democratic Party (NDP), within the area covered by the ban.

The ban had been imposed by the local administration apparently to avert fresh bloody clashes between Nepali Congress members and those of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist).

NDP General Secretary Rabindra Nath Sharma said: "The local administration at Pokhara is allowing only ruling-party activists to launch their campaign for local council elections due for May 28.

"But our activists are prohibited from campaigning and have been arrested [by] them instead."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, who was in Pokhara earlier in the week, continued his tour of rural areas of Nepal with more attacks on Nepal's communists and alleged anti-democratic elements.

At a public meeting at Dhading Besi, 230 kilometres (145 miles) west of Kathmandu, he said: "The Nepali Congress government on the one hand is resolutely committed to the development of the country, as well as the welfare of the Nepalese people. "On the other hand, the anti-democratic elements are making every effort to raise obstacles in its way."

"We are determined to check any activities against the Constitution and the constitutional monarchy, and the government will not allow any activities designed to disturb peace and tranquility anywhere in the country," he said.

Sandhikharka Placed Under Curfew

BK2505010892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1830 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Kathmandu, May 24 (AFP)—The Nepal government has clamped a dawn to dusk curfew on the district of Sandhikharka after Marxist activists marred an appearance by the prime minister, the Home Ministry said Sunday. "The curfew was clamped at 5:20 p.m. on Saturday and lasted until 7:00 a.m. Sunday," radio quoted an official as saying.

The official said that soon after the withdrawal of the curfew, activists of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML), the United People's Front (UPF) and the extreme left communist faction of the NCP (Unity Centre) had "resumed vandalism and tried to force local shops to close down."

The official also accused the activists of "threatening to create an atmosphere of violence."

State radio described the Sandhikhark and Chutrabesi areas as disturbed and banned all public meetings and demonstrations from Sunday morning.

A Home Ministry official told AFP that "the communist activists waved black flags at Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and hurled stones at the crowd soon after the prime minister concluded his public meeting on Saturday at Sandhikhark."

"At the public meeting the prime minister strongly attacked the anti-democratic and extreme left communist activists trying to destabilize democracy in the country," an official of the ruling Nepali Congress party said.

Koirala told a crowd of 15,000 that anti-democratic elements would not be allowed to act against the Constitution nor the crown following its acceptance of a constitutional monarchy.

Following the attacks made by the extreme left communist and the anti-democratic elements, the local administration has declared Sandhikhark Bazaar and Chutrabesi, 250 kilometres west of here, as restricted areas with effect from Sunday morning.

It has banned all public meetings or public gatherings of more than five people, the Home Ministry official added.

Prime Minister Predicts Victory, Little Violence

BK2705032292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0207 GMT 27 May 92

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, May 27 AFP—Nepal is readying for local elections starting Thursday, with the Home Ministry banning the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages 48 hours before the polling.

Over 90,000 civilians and security personnel have been assigned to the two-day local council elections scheduled for 28 and 31 May in over 4,000 villages and 36 municipalities, an Election Commission official said.

The polls would fill 44,530 local council posts, including 36 mayors, he said.

The official said local council elections would be held in 50 percent of the villages and towns on Thursday, and the remaining 50 percent would be held on Sunday.

He said the commission had taken all necessary measures to ensure the local council elections would be held peacefully.

Of 44,530 posts, 2,477 have already been elected unopposed, the official said.

He added that 1,349 posts had gone to the ruling Nepali Congress, followed by the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) with 406, the National Democratic Party (NDP) with 212, the United People's Front (UPF) with 127 and independents with 196 posts. In an interview Tuesday, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told AFP: "The Nepali Congress is fully confident of winning the local council elections with a majority as in the last general elections." "The local council elections would be held peacefully except in some districts where extreme leftists and Marxist and Leninists are bent upon creating disturbances, but we have made necessary arrangements for holding the local council elections peacefully and successfully," Koirala continued.

He also ruled out violent disturbances except in some districts where repolling could be possible.

Political analysts here said the trend would be similar to the May 12 general elections of 1991, when the ruling Nepali Congress got the majority.

The Nepali Congress was expected to win a majority followed by the NCP (UML), the former Panchayat activists' NDP, the extreme left UPF, the pro-Indian Nepal Sadbhawana Party and independents, they said.

A tough competition however is expected to take place in the districts of Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Sunsari, Pokhara, Nepalgunj, Rajbiraj, Dhanusa and several other mid-mountainous regions including Parbat and Baglung.

In an apparent bid to avoid disturbances, the local administration clamped on Monday a curfew on the district of Parbat, 196 kilometers (122 miles) west of Kathmandu from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., officials said.

The curfew was announced following a bloody clash between Nepali Congress activists and NCP (UML) and UPF followers, the official said.

Opposition Urges Ruling Party Defeat in Elections

BK2505011692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1815 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Kathmandu, May 24 (AFP)—Nepal's main opposition party is calling for the Nepali Congress [NC] government to be brought down, as campaigns for the first local elections in more than three decades heat up.

"Although the Nepali Congress government was elected by the people for five years, we have to defeat it in the local elections and bring it down within one year," Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) General Secretary Madan Bhandari told an election rally here Saturday.

The NCP-UML is focusing its campaign on the NC's economic record since it came to power last May in Nepal's first free general elections in 32 years and on the April 6 police shooting of at least seven civilians during a general strike, according to NC sources.

Meanwhile, senior NC officials, including Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, are using campaign tours to warn Nepal's population against alleged forces of destabilization which they say are bent upon stealing the fruits of democracy, party sources said.

The party officials have been appealing to voters to support the NC, saying it was committed to parliamentary democracy and human rights, and determined to implement pledges made at the general elections, they said.

More than 12.3 million Nepalese are registered to vote between Thursday and Saturday for members of village and town committees, as well as mayors and deputy mayors, an election commission official said.

The elections are important for the survival of the NC government, analysts here said.

Pakistan

'Surprise' at Indian Cancellation of Talks

BK2605163292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] India has called off the sixth round of India-Pakistan foreign secretary level talks that were scheduled to take place in New Delhi from the 31st of this month. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad expressed surprise over the Indian initiative to postpone these talks. He regretted that India has not taken the opportunity to discuss substantive issues which were to precede the meeting between Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the Indian premier, Mr. Narasimha Rao, at Rio De Janerio [during Earth Summit] next month.

The spokesman pointed out that the talks will have helped mitigate the adverse impact of the recent incident involving the diplomats of the two countries. He expressed the hope that these talks will be rescheduled at the earliest opportunity.

Referring to the Indian Government's decision to expel two senior Pakistani diplomats from India, the spokesman said the decision was an obvious case of retaliation which was unjustified, excessive and highly regrettable. The spokesman added that Mr. Mittal, counselor in Indian High Commission, had been involved in objectionable activities in violation of accepted norms of diplomatic conduct for which irrefutable evidence was available.

When the spokesman's attention was drawn to the highly exaggerated and provocative account appearing in INDIAN EXPRESS on the treatment allegedly given to Mr. Mittal, he regretted that over the past few years, several Pakistani diplomatic officials, including a defense attache, had been physically assaulted by Indian security forces and expelled. These violations of diplomatic convention had not led to a retaliation by Pakistan.

Indians Living in Pakistan Concerned for Safety

BK2605034692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] In Pakistan, the house of the Islamabad correspondent of an Indian daily has been burgled. The correspondent of the HINDU, Mr. Keshav Menon, found his house burgled when he returned after a short visit to Lahore. Several valuable electronic items have been stolen. This is the second such burglary involving Indians in the last fortnight. Earlier, a burglary took place in the house of the second secretary of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. Our Islamabad correspondent reports Indian residents in the Pakistan capital feel concerned as they are already apprehensive about their personal safety following the kidnapping and brutal treatment meted out to Mr. Rajesh Mittal, counselor in the Indian High Commission.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, has regretted the incident involving the kidnapping and torture of the Indian diplomat, Mr. Rajesh Mittal. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday, Mr. Khan expressed the hope that the incident will not affect relations between New Delhi and Islamabad.

National Assembly Briefed on Operations in Sindh

BK2305164892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 May 92

[Excerpt] The National Assembly was today assured in categorical terms that the operation contemplated to restore law and order in Sindh will be in accordance with the Constitution and that the provincial government will in no way be ignored. Responding to a point of order raised by Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani of the Pakistan Democratic Alliance, who cited newspaper reports on deployment of the Army in Sindh, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources and Prime Minister's Special Asssistant Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan gave this assurance on behalf of the government. The federal minister denied that the Pakistani Army will carry out this operation. He said that only Mehran forces and rangers will be deployed to end the present incidents of lawlessness and to protect the common man in the province. However, so far the government has not taken any final decision on the time and mode of operation.

Referring to the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad parliamentary party meeting held on Thursday, he said the prime minister has taken the members into confidence on the issue. He also took into confidence the members of the Assembly and the Cabinet in Sindh. He said the interior minister will make a statement in the House tomorrow. Even then, if the members feel that the issue should be discussed in the House, the government will have no objection as the government will try to benefit from the suggestions of the members. He stressed that it is a political issue and the members from both sides in the House are equally concerned over this.

Liaqat Baluch wanted this issue to be included in tomorrow's agenda for discussion in the House, whereas Syed Mohammad Aslam of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement said the members of the Assembly should be taken into confidence in any program of operation. The speaker said if the House desires it, normal proceedings can be adjourned after the statement of the interior minister, and an open or in camera discussion can be held on the issue.

Later, the House resumed general discussion of the budget for the next fiscal year. [passage omitted]

Action Plan Detailed

BK2605145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] In accordance with its powers under the Constitution and the law, the federal government with the help of the Armed Forces will assist the Sindh government for the restoration of law and order in the province. This was stated by the federal minister for interior, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, in the National Assembly this evening while moving a motion for consideration of the law and order situation in Sindh. He said the Armed Forces will be deployed in Sindh under a joint operational plan. In order to prepare and implement this plan, a provincial operational committee has been set up. The committee will comprise the Sindh chief minister, commanders (?five) corps, and the inspector general of police, Sindh.

The plan seeks to immediately restore the wit of the government so that the common man's life and property are safe. International and interprovincial boundaries will be protected to stop the movement of antistate and criminal elements. The operation will be carried out in such a way that the criminals are not allowed to seek sanctuary nor would they be allowed to flee to other places. Dumps of arms and ammunition will be destroyed on the invocation of the provincial government. The plan is aimed at completely eliminating terrorism and sabotage so that the common man can live in peace. Chaudhary Shujat Hussain said the law and order problem in the interior of Sindh is the creation of vested interests who for a long time have been trying to create uncertain conditions. In the last few years, acts like sabotage, terrorism, murder, kidnapping for ransom, dacoity [robbery], highway robbery, attacks on trains, and creation of hurdles in government functioning have been on the increase. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that even patriotic citizens have been made the target of attacks. The effectiveness of the civil administration at the district level has been reduced and the wit of the provincial government is being eroded. Ethnic and regionalist organizations have emerged who have jeopardized the integrity of the country to achieve their nefarious designs. The government's effectiveness is being challenged by large-scale sabotage activities by Jeay Sindh, Al Zulfiqar, and some student organizations. The government has solid proof that these organizations have contacts with agencies like RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] for material support. The minister said our government has the courage to bring the facts to the notice of the people and strive to solve the problem in the light of the Constitution and law. Chaudhary Shujat Hussain made it clear that no political victimization will take place. Under the prime minister's specific orders, this operation has been launched above party considerations and nobody who is involved in criminal activities will be spared irrespective of the fact that he may belong to Pakistan Muslim League, Jamaat-i-Islami, People's Party, or MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]. He hoped that everybody will participate in the restoration of rule of law in Sindh.

Afghanistan's Mojaddedi Begins 2-Day State Visit

BK2605143692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] A very warm welcome was accorded to the president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, when he arrived in Islamabad today on a two-day state visit to Pakistan. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, received the distinguished guests as he alighted from his blue and white plane. The Afghan leader warmly shook hands and embraced the Pakistani leaders symbolizing the deep friendship between the two countries. The chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Shamim Alam Khan; chief of the Army Staff, General Asif Nawaz, Naval Chief Admiral Sayeed M. Khan and a representative of Pakistan Air Force were also present at the airport. The distinguished guest was conducted to the saluting dais. President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi accompanied by the Pakistani leader took the salute. A contingent drawn from the three services presented a guard of honor to the distinguished guests. The Afghan president inspected the guard of honor. The speaker of the national Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; deputy chairperson of the Senate, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, federal ministers, diplomats and a number of Afghan leaders were also present at the airport to greet the distinguished leader.

It is the first visit of Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi to Pakistan since his assumption of office as president of Afghanistan. A sixty-member entourage is accompanying the Afghan president. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, is hosting a dinner to the distinguished guest tonight. The Afghan president will hold talks with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, tomorrow.

Speaks at Banquet

BK2705085292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0200 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed the hope that the Afghan leadership will face the challenges with full determination and will consolidate national understanding, racial harmony, and peace in the country. Speaking at the banquet hosted in honor of the president of Afghan interim government, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, in Islamabad last night, he offered Pakistan's every possible assistance to the fraternal country to face the challenges in its rehabilitation, reconstruction, progress and prosperity. He said Pakistan wants to see Afghanistan as a united, peaceful, stable, and prosperous country. The president said the great Afghan jehad has proved that the freedom of the people

cannot be subdued by acts of oppression and atrocities. In this connection, he referred to the untold miseries and sufferings of the people of Kashmir, who have been made the target of oppression and atrocities by the Indian troops. The president said the just struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserves our full support as well as that of the international community.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi expressed the hope that the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan will be strengthened as both are bound by religious ties. He thanked Pakistan and other countries, especially Iran and Saudi Arabia, for extending their support and help to the Afghans in their 13 year-long jehad. He specially thanked Pakistan for giving refuge to more than 3.3 million Afghan people and Iran for giving asylum to about 2 million people. He thanked the president, government and the people of Pakistan for extending a glorious welcome to him and his entourage.

Kanjoo Regrets Differences Among Afghan Leaders

BK2505033992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, has expressed the hope that mojahedin leaders in Afghanistan will be able to resolve their differences politically to help restore peace in this war-torn country. In a statement in Islamabad last night, he said the government of Pakistan has worked sincerely to bring together all mojahedin organizations and to help settle their differences for the success of the holy war. He said special attention had been paid to bringing about a reconciliation between two major Afghan groups—the Jami'yat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami. The minister of state, however, regretted that the differences continued to exist today, even though all Afghans are fully aware of the dangers of a civil war and the need for a reconciliation.

Kanjoo said the situation in Kabul is still tense. Political efforts are continuing and Pakistan hopes that a cease-fire will come into force. Pakistan, on its part, will continue to do its best for the restoration of peace there.

Explaining the background of the turn of events in Afghanistan after Najibollah's 18 March announcement, Siddique Khan Kanjoo said the lack of a consensus among mojahedin leadership could have created a dangerous vacuum and the threat of a civil war. But, to avert this situation, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif called a meeting of all Afghan leaders on 18 April. He also invited Pakistani political leaders, including Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the amir of Jamaat-i-Islami, to help achieve a consensus. This led to the drafting of the Peshawar Formula by the Afghan mojahedin leadership. Although the prime minister or any organization of the Pakistani Government did not have any say in the preparation of this formula, Pakistan constantly reminded the Afghan leadership of the dangers that might have been created due to the delay in reaching a consensus. The minister of state said the arrival of the interim council in Kabul had helped to establish peace and tranquillity, otherwise a full-fledged civil war would have started in the country.

Sharif's Emissary Returns From Afghanistan

BK2605114292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, has again lauded Pakistan's role in the Afghan jehad and expressed the hope that it will continue to extend generous assistance for the reconstruction in Afghanistan. This was stated by the federal minister for labor and manpower, Mr. Ejazul Haq, on his return to Islamabad today after a three-day visit to Afghanistan as special emissary of Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. He said mojahedin leaders he met also said the Afghans will never forget the help and courtesy extended by Pakistani nation to them. They particularly referred to the role of late President Ziaul Haq, shahid [martyr], in the Jihad-i- Afghanistan.

This morning Mr. Ejazul Haq, before his departure from Kabul, met the acting Afghan minister for information, Mr. (Mohammad Sidiq Chakri), and conveyed Pakistan's offer for all possible assistance to Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Tigers Say India Trying To Oust Premadasa

BK2405081492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0537 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Colombo, May 24 (AFP)—India is trying to overthrow Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa by collaborating with the island's main opposition party and a local newspaper group, a state-run weekly here reported Sunday.

New Delhi was "working closely" with the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and financing an unnamed newspaper organization to destabilise the government, the SUNDAY OBSERVER said quoting the dominant Tamil Tiger rebels.

The newspaper gave front page headlines to the claim by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) that New Delhi had banned the Sri Lankan separatist movement to sabotage its talks with Colombo.

The OBSERVER in a separate report quoted an unnamed administration official as saying the government would not have talks with the LTTE "just now" because a parliamentary committee was still trying to resolve the ethnic issue.

India outlawed the LTTE on May 14 after accusing the group of assassinating former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi and supporting secessionist movements in southern India.

Ironically, Colombo had been accusing New Delhi of arming, training and providing safe haven to LTTE members between 1983 and 1987 when India and Sri Lanka entered into a peace pact which sought to end Tamil separatism in the island.

Although Sri Lankan security forces are currently battling the LTTE in the island's northeast, Colombo has ruled out banning the guerrillas, arguing that it would prejudice a possible solution to the island's dragging ethnic conflict.

The OBSERVER, which usually reflects government thinking, quoted LTTE's political wing leader Yogaratnam Yogi as saying that "India was playing dirty political tricks" for its "own selfish motives."

"The Indian Government is going all out to overthrow the government of President Ranasineghe Premadasa," Yogi was quoted as saying over LTTE clandestine radio Friday.

Relations between Colombo and New Delhi have been strained over the question of dealing with the LTTE in recent months and India slammed Sri Lanka Friday for misquoting its top envoy here on the issue of banning the Tigers.

India said Sri Lankan Premier Dingiri Banda Wijetunga had quoted remarks of High Commissioner Nagendra Nath Jha out of context to give an "erroneous impression" that New Delhi's ban on the LTTE was only symbolic.

In a strongly worded rebuttal, India warned that Colombo's future policies "must not be based on a misinterpretation of the Government of India's resolve in this regard or the High Commissioner's interview."

Yogi said India's ban on his movement was to discredit Tamils internationally. Rival Tamil groups have said the New Delhi move will hit the LTTE's international fund raising and propoganda networks.

Tiger guerrillas repudiated the July 1987 peace accord signed between Rajiv Gandhi and Premadasa's predecessor Junius Jayewardene. India responded with a major offensive to disarm the Tigers and lost some 1,140 troops.

Tigers forged an alliance with Premadasa, who resented the foreign military presence on his soil and the Indians had left by March 1990.

However, within three months of the Indian military withdrawal, the LTTE resumed its separatist war, killing thousands of Sri Lankan troops and civilians of the minority Muslim and majority Sinhalese communities.

An Indian High Commission (embassy) in Colombo had no formal response to the OBSERVER report. "We have to see what this is all about. We cannot go by what the OBSERVER tells us," a senior Indian diplomat said.

Policy of Dialogue With LTTE To Continue

BK2505114392 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge told a mass rally in Sri Lanka over the weekend that though India has banned the Tamil Tiger movement operating in its soil, the Sri Lanka Government was giving due deference to the parliamentary select committee headed by an opposition member with a view to finding a political solution through the president's policy of compromise, consultation, and common consensus. The prime minister noted that President Premadasa has no alternative options and was keeping the door open for negotiations without preconditions because the president considers the people of north and east Sri Lanka as part and parcel of the motherland and very much our own people.

Troops Battle LTTE at Elephant Pass

BK2605114492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Government troops were reported to have inflicted heavy casualties on a group of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists who tried to penetrate the north-western defenses of the security forces camps at Elephant Pass on Sunday [24 May]. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH [words indistinct] morning, a forward observation post had detected approaching terrorists and opened fire. Two terrorists were shot dead when ambushed by security forces at (Muniakadu) in the Batticaloa District. A third terrorist escaped with gunshot wounds. A group of uniform-clad LTTE cadres fired at and destroyed an electricity transformer opposite to the post office at Anamalai in the eastern Amparai District on Sunday. At Periacheddikulam in the Vavuniya District, troops killed three terrorists. One soldier was killed in the incident.